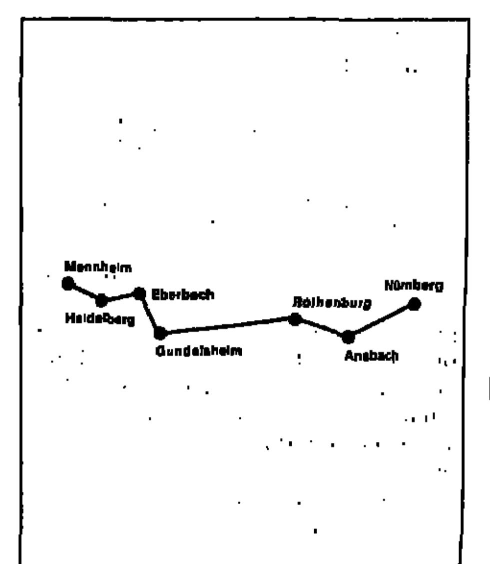


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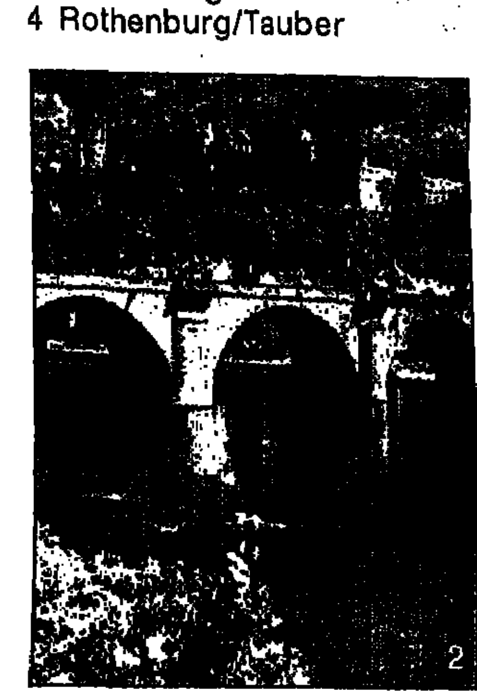
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1 Gundelsheim/Neckar
2 Heidelberg
3 Nuremberg
4 Rothenburg/Tauber



The German Tribune
Hamburg, 26 January 1986
Twenty-fifth year - No. 1211 - By air
A WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE GERMAN PRESS
C 20725 C
ISSN 0016-8858

Bangemann plays the role of SDI conciliator

DIE WELT

Economic Affairs Minister Martin Bangemann has been to Washington to discuss the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI), the so-called Star Wars.

Herr Bangemann avoided giving the Americans the impression that his party is any less enthusiastic than either the CDU or the CSU.

So Bangemann has once again used his ability to compromise to avoid a crisis and keep things cordial. He strictly followed the decisions reached by the Bonn Cabinet.

The FDP has been drifting towards rejection of SDI. The CSU, led by Franz Josef Strauss, wants stronger commitment to SDI.

In the end, the Cabinet reached a compromise, agreeing: not to go as far as taking part at government level; and to send Bangemann to Washington to discuss the issue.

His manner of handling the issue there made superfluous the CSU protests that accompanied him.

The going in Washington was not too tough, even though the US government wants the Federal Republic to gives its economy a boost and also join America in economic sanctions on Libya (he declined on both counts, outlining the German government's arguments).

SDI and technology transfer was his main brief. This is an issue on which many decisions have yet to be reached — both in Germany and in the United States.

Now the US administration knows what Bonn's basic views are. The FDP's views can be set aside for the time being — until the final draft of the framework agreement or exchange of notes envisaged has been worked out by the Ministry officials entrusted with the negotiations.

For the Germans, SDI is domestically a hot chestnut which has now has had the politics taken out of it. This strengthens the position of Chancellor Kohl.

In principle it is not wise to distinguish between general improvements in technology transfer and SDI research because they are so closely linked.

For Bonn the problem is that the Export Administration Act approved by Congress in mid-1985, the legislation empowering Washington to control exports, allows no inferences to be drawn on the US attitude toward technology transfer in the SDI context.

The scope of the Act is too wide and most of the regulations governing its implementation have yet to be issued. They are what Bonn must now concentrate on influencing.

That will naturally take time but ought to be possible by the end of March or early April. The United States has not yet awarded a single firm SDI contract to a non-US contractor.

There is no need to call on Bonn to follow in Whitehall's footsteps and come to terms with Washington on SDI participation.

British firms that are likely candidates for SDI contract work are mostly nationalised, so Whitehall's role as a broker is warranted.

Bonn in contrast must follow the dictates of a free-market economy, leaving German firms and research facilities to decide for themselves whether and on what terms to take on SDI work.

Besides, the United States has sought to be as flexible as possible. The Reagan administration is not wildly enthusiastic about a generally valid umbrella agreement applying to all non-US contractors.

Indeed, the Americans are prepared to accept national distinctions, as Lt-General James Abrahamson, head of the SDI office at the Pentagon, has stressed more than once.

But certain principles will apply to all parties:

- No-one will be awarded a contract by the Americans without sufficient security guarantees.
- Potential business will be anyone's guess. The United States is not going to guarantee either \$100m or \$1bn, and there will be no quotas for individual countries.
- Initially, non-US contractors can expect to be awarded a large number of small technical contracts, for most of which there will be public tenders.

This can only come as a cold shower to those who have indulged in flights of fancy. In general the United States feels it can develop in American laboratories the know-how needed for SDI.

Washington has earmarked \$26bn for the programme, part of which will be invested abroad because overseas competitors are more advanced and can deliver at lower prices in specific sectors.

They include microelectronics, optics, materials research and sensors.

For many German firms participation will only be pof interest if there is an open transfer of technology and the United States waives the many barriers for them at least.

This applies to data and to attendance at scientific gatherings in equal measure.

Then, but then only, contributing their own non-military research findings to the project will be worthwhile even if commercialisation of SDI spin-off fails to cover costs, which is more than likely in most cases.

As Bonn itself is not directly involved, the least it can do is ensure the best possible terms for German firms contemplating participation.

The circumstances here outlined are the terms of reference by which Herr Bangemann's Washington talks and their outcome must be measured.

Horst-Alexander Siebert
(Die Welt, Bonn, 16 January 1986)

American Secretary of State George Shultz (left) and Bonn Economic Affairs Minister Martin Bangemann in Washington. They talked about SDI and technical cooperation. (Photo: AP)

IN THIS ISSUE



Mediterranean reality hangs over the Geneva talks

The fourth round of US-Soviet disarmament talks in Geneva pales in significance alongside some other theatres in world affairs.

First is the Mediterranean, where both superpowers have stepped up their commitments.

By sending in another aircraft carrier to reinforce the US Sixth Fleet the Americans are increasing their pressure on the Libyan leader, Colonel Gaddafi.

The Russians are boosting their commitment to the bizarre Libyan leader by supplying new, longer-range SAM-5 missiles (the decision to deploy them was taken months ago).

Colonel Gaddafi himself constantly refers to the Third World War he says he will personally make sure is waged if the Americans resort to military correctives.

It is hardly surprising against this background, that harmony in Geneva is a little less shrill.

The real danger to world peace does not come from the superpowers' missile silos; both superpowers are well aware that the nuclear apocalypse has long ceased to serve as a political instrument.

The real risks have always been elsewhere: in Third World hotspots where the superpowers side with different parties but cannot really control their clients.

How far does the protective shield reach and how short is the rein? Dangerous room for unpredictability occurs where the two principals are unable to accurately answer these questions.

It is a leeway in which the world's Gaddafis can manoeuvre at will, wresting control over what happens from their patrons up to and including the head-on clash that afterwards no-one claims to have wanted to happen.

This risk — that of the great powers falling foul of the small — weighs more

Continued on page 2

■ WORLD AFFAIRS

Gulf between West and the latter-day Barbary pirates

Frankfurter Allgemeine

If one took at face value the resolution of the Islamic conference in Fez, Morocco, it might be imagined that dialogue between the Islamic world and the West has become impossible.

The resolution proclaimed that Islam backs Libya to the hilt.

But it would be a wrong assumption. Many Islamic countries remain pro-Western despite the American economic sanctions.

The Fez resolution was the result of astute tactics by the Libyans, who worked hard behind the scenes.

It was also due to Washington's indecision. America is increasingly seen in the East as a hesitator, — all verbal threats and no action.

The sanctions are unlikely to bring Libya to its knees either. They merely triggered Islamic solidarity, a phenomenon the West has yet to fully appreciate.

Yet it is clear that a wall is taking shape between the Islamic world and the West. In the early 1950s both seemed to be on the point of rapprochement after centuries of strife.

Differences of opinion seemed to be growing less marked — but that optimism now seems to be a matter of history.

"East and West can no longer be separated," Goethe optimistically wrote in his *East-West Divan*. He could scarcely be wronger today. There can be no mistaking aggressive undertones.

Who is to blame? The West has long regarded the Islamic world with condescension and even arrogance. Interest in the truth behind 1,001 Nights-style clichés has been virtually non-existent.

This point was recently made by Professor Edward Said, a Palestinian. Conversely, Moslems have shown little interest in understanding how the Western mind works.

All they wanted was to benefit from Western material progress, as Western orientalist Bernard Lewis puts it.

A third factor also applies. It is the clash between a secularised, post-Enlightenment and post-industrial Western society as described by Daniel Bell and the Islamic world.

In the West the existence of all existing and conceivable beings, including God, may be called into question, whereas in the Islamic world absolute values, both political and metaphysical, still hold good.

History, as Ranke put it, leads straight to God. Muslims today would take this point literally.

They are strongly in favour of absolute solutions, including solutions to Zionism (which they see in caricature), and imperialism.

Enlightenment in the sense of Western secularism and the separation of religion from politics have only partly occurred, so that attacks on political views, limited though they might appear in Western terms, relate immediately to religion in the Islamic world.

To attack political views in the Islamic world and to threaten military attacks is to attack Islam itself. Even if the person attacked is partly to blame, he must be protected as a fellow-Muslim, the Fez declaration states.

History is not repeated, and when something seems to be happening all over again, it is never exactly the same.

Much of what has happened in recent weeks is reminiscent of the days when the Ottoman Empire held sway as the great power of Islam in the Mediterranean.

The Barbary states of Algiers, Tunis and Tripoli were allied with the Turks for centuries and posed a challenge to Christendom with their piracy.

It began with Captain Haireddin Barbarossa and Torgut Reis, who established virtually independent rule in Algiers.

The Turks were happy to see the Barbary pirates "guard" the Mediterranean, especially after their own fleet was defeated at Lepanto in 1571.

If they overshot the mark Constantinople could always deny having anything to do with what went on.

To a certain extent Abu Abbas and Abu Nidal are latter-day Barbary pirates. Developments have long passed the Palestine problem by. Palestine has become a mere pretext.

Muslims who have visions of a militant resurgence of Islam bankroll the extremists but deny having anything to do with them when it suits them.

This state of affairs has been exacerbated by the establishment of Islamic fundamentalist regimes that inevitably affect more moderate governments in the Middle East.

Religious fanatics readily claim an Abu Nidal as one of their own even though he is anything but religious.

The West used to use force on the Barbary coast. In the early 19th century a stout-hearted American naval officer used military force to oblige the ruler in Tripoli to hand over comrades held hostage.

Gone are these days of the big stick, as Washington would seem to agree. Soviet allegations that America is pursuing gunboat diplomacy are bound in this context to appear absurd.

No-one can foresee what measures may yet have to be resorted to in order to stem the tide of terrorism, but they ought certainly to include talks with moderate Arabs, who still exist.

If these talks were no longer to be held it would be a catastrophe.

Wolfgang Günter Lerch

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 10 January 1986)

European arms embargo likely

The 12 European Community countries are likely to impose no more than an arms embargo against Libya. They will discuss the issue on 27 January.

There is no question of a total ban on trade with Colonel Gaddafi's country.

A senior European Community diplomat in Brussels says this is unlikely to change during US Under-Secretary Whitehead's tour of several European capitals.

The economic activities abandoned by the United States in Libya may even be taken over by Belgium. There has been disagreement at the Belgian Foreign Office as to whether a party of 15 Belgian businessmen ought to fly to Tripoli as planned on behalf of the Belgian-Luxembourg-Arab Chamber of Commerce.

The delegation was to include bankers and representatives of engineering and chemical companies. The Belgians clearly hope to improve their own position after the US withdrawal from Libya. Belgium does little trade with Libya, which is only its 49th most important trading partner.

Yet Libya would certainly be a welcome commercial opportunity if the United States really were to quit the North African country.

Four US firms in collaboration with Oasis Petroleum of Libya produce three quarters of Libya's petroleum output, the main company producing half a million barrels a day.

There is also speculation in the Belgian capital as to whether the US government might warn European subsidiaries of American companies off a gigantic project in Libya that is mainly concerned with new oil production and water treatment technologies.

The project is said to involve contracts worth $20bn.

The ban on direct arms shipments to Libya as already imposed by Italy is similarly described by European Community diplomats as a soft option.

Referring to the declaration of solidarity by 21 Arab League states in Fez, they say another Arab country might well order on Libya's behalf such arms as the Soviet Union might not supply in bulk.

Given the brisk trade between European Community and Arab countries and the need for the Euro-Arab dialogue begun 11 years ago to continue unimpeded, European Community countries cannot afford to refuse to supply an Arab country that places any such order, it is argued.

The Arab countries are still the major oil suppliers to European Community industry and domestic consumers. Conversely, the European Community is by far the largest supplier of industrial and consumer goods and certain foodstuffs to the Arab world.

Helmut J. Weland

(Rheinische Post, Düsseldorf, 13 January 1986)

Continued from page 1

heavily than all the megatonnes Washington and Moscow have stockpiled in their nuclear arsenals.

Worse still, the Geneva talks are not held in a hermetically sealed conference chamber; political relations between the superpowers, taking shape daily at the various hotspots, determine in the final analysis the pace and success of the disarmament dialogue.

Salt 1 in 1972 took shape on the crest of a wave of detente. Salt 2 in 1979 foundered before ratification on Afghanistan, where the Soviet invasion made short shrift of what was left of detente.

This pattern was repeated in the final phase of the second Cold War. The superpowers have been talking in Geneva since March 1985, but with the readiness to compromise of a couple on the brink of suing for divorce.

More encouraging disarmament developments did not occur until the eve of the Geneva summit, when the overall political climate began to improve.

Mr Gorbachov unveiled his magic 50-per-cent formula: the plan to halve the number of strategic weapons on both sides, while the Americans suggested a round figure: 4,500.

The new balance of terror, they suggested, should be struck by 4,500 warheads on each side; at present each has about 10,000, both on board strategic bombers and in missile nosecones.

This resurgence of the desire for detente in the Kremlin and at the White House has triggered a spate of activity in Geneva.

Max Kampelman, the chief US delegate, refers to "acceleration," Viktor Karpov, the chief Soviet delegate, to "rapid headway."

But the issues are so complex that Geneva alone can be expected to accomplish neither the one nor the other.

Fifty per cent is wishful thinking (but sounds splendid in propaganda terms); as always, the small print will prove the problem.

The Americans and the Russians are not referring to the same 50 per cent, understandably so in view of structural differences between their nuclear arsenals.

Another statistic may serve to illustrate the problem. About two thirds of the Soviet Union's missile warheads are land-based, whereas about two thirds of America's are based on board submarines.

As land-based missiles can be more accurately targeted and are better suited for a first strike, the United States has called for the most sweeping reduction in their number.

The Soviet Union as a continental power shows not the slightest inclination to completely realign its deterrent potential.

In other words, the superpowers' view of themselves and their status is what is at stake, not just figures. And this applies in equal measure to medium-range missiles.

The West would be prepared to accept a balance at any level as long as US weapon systems are on a par with the Soviet SS 20s.

Moscow in contrast is keen to balance its missiles with those of Britain and France, so edging out of Europe the US missiles that help to protect the nuclear have-nots.

These are political knots Messrs Kampelman and Karpov cannot sever. They call for a top-level review of overall relations.

The Herculean labours of Geneva will grow easier as the United States and the Soviet Union agree to rules governing their rivalry and step out the fires in regional hotspots.

The world's Gaddafis could then not even in their dreams seriously think in terms of a Third World War.

Josef Joffe

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich, 16 January 1986)

The German Tribune

Friedrich Reinecke Verlag GmbH, 23 Schoene Aussicht, D-2000 Hamburg 76. Tel.: 22 85 1, Telex: 02-14733.
Editor-in-chief: Otto Heinz. Editor: Alexander Anthony. English language sub-editor: Simon Burnett. — Distribution manager: Georgine Picone.

Advertising rates list No. 15
Annual subscription DM 45

Printed by CW Niemeyer-Druck, Hameln.
Distributed in the USA by: MASS MAILINGS, Inc., 540 West 24th Street, New York, N.Y. 10011.
Articles in THE GERMAN TRIBUNE are translated from the original text and published by agreement with leading newspapers in the Federal Republic of Germany.

In all correspondence please quote your subscription number which appears on the wrapper, between asterisks, above your address.

■ HOME AFFAIRS

Legal ruling backs bid to keep Greens out

Süddeutsche Zeitung

The Parliamentary Greens can legally be excluded from secret budget decision making involving the intelligence agencies, the Federal Constitutional Court has ruled.

The Greens say they have a right to be involved.

The need to get a court decision reflects just one of the new problems which has arisen in the Bundestag since the Greens first won seats in 1983.

The decision was a tricky one for the Constitutional Court judges, since a decision in favour of the Greens would not only have established a basic legal principle, but would have also resulted in considerable political complications at this late stage of the current parliamentary term in the Bundestag.

This may well be just the first of a number of attempts to clarify the legal situation in this grey area of parliamentary control.

The Greens, for example, are not represented in the Parliamentary Commission for the Control of the Secret Services (PKK).

And none of the deputy presidents of the Bundestag is a member of the Greens, and the Greens are not represented in the G 10 Commission for the Control of the Privacy and Secrecy of the Post and the Secrecy of Telecommunications.

The Constitutional Court judgement clearly complied with the *raison d'état*.

It stated that the members of the budget control committee for the field of secret service activities should be elected by a parliamentary majority in the Bundestag, i.e. that only those members should be elected who enjoy the confidence of the majority of the members of the Bundestag.

The Greens complain that this enables the government in power to pick its own parliamentary controllers.

Two of the eight judges in the Constitutional Court's Second Senate, Mahrenholz and Böckenförde, expressed their doubts about the constitutionality of the court's decision.

The judgement's guiding principles also reflect the uneasy feeling about this landmark decision.

The decision emphasises that parliament must be "free of arbitrariness" when weighing up the interests of the state secret service and the principles of parliamentary democracy.

In the reasons given for its decision the court stated that it "may" prove constitutionally "necessary", "for compelling reasons", for certain parliamentary groups to be excluded from representation in a given parliamentary committee. In view of this unusual wording the Greens can be expected to appeal to the Constitutional Court again in the near future, although another Court decision is unlikely before the next general election in January 1987.

Assuming the Greens return to the Bundestag similar cases are bound to be on the agenda.

The current parliamentary majority — the CDU/CSU and the FDP — have every reason to reconsider the significance of this decision.

After all, why should the junior partner in the government coalition, the FDP (2.7 million votes in the last general election) be treated any differently in its parliamentary activities than the Greens (2.2 million votes)?

Many politicians can only reluctantly accept the argument of political reliability, or, to be more precise, political unreliability, levelled against the Greens by the government coalition parties in defence of the Constitutional Court decision.

The parliamentary activities of the Greens in the Bundestag during the past three years have shown that they by and large respect the parliamentary stipulations on confidential issues and information.

No member of the Greens, for example, has leaked out information from the defence committee, in which consultations are generally strictly confidential.

And in cases where — from the government's point of view — there have been unpleasant leaks from other parliamentary committees, for example, the Flick investigation committee or the Parliamentary Control Commission, the behaviour of the Greens has very much conformed with the system in comparison with other political parties.

The Greens would appear to have a more pronounced sense of party-political tact.

Politicians should distinguish between spurious legal arguments and the true political reasons for legal decisions.

"The traditional parties in the Bundestag, the CDU, CSU, SPD and FDP, must come to terms with the fact that the Greens are there to stay.

Too many politicians in these "established" parties still feel that the Green intruders "do not belong" in the Bundestag.

Many of the statements by the coalition parties on the Constitutional Court decision sound like sighs of relief about the fact that the legal "protectors of the constitution" have, as it were, repelled an attack by the Greens on law and order in the Federal Republic of Germany.

The fact that this has nothing to do with parliamentary realities and simply reflects the very woolly concern of traditional political parties about activities by the Greens which may be "hostile to the state" makes this Constitutional Court decision very dubious and thin.

One can only hope that the Bundestag will put itself right after the next general election.

Martin E. Süskind

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich, 15 January 1986)

CDU man runs gauntlet at union meeting

Frankfurt's Mayor, Walter Wallmann, was assaulted at a New Year reception by the Frankfurt branch of the German Trade Union Federation (DGB).

Wallmann is deputy chairman of the national Christian Democrat party.

The incident, which has caused an enormous row among both politicians and trade unionists, has given the media a field day.

Much of the anger behind the incident stems from planned government legislation under which strike regulations would be tightened up. Reaction to the incident varied sharply. One member of the engineering and metalworkers' union, IG Metall, Michael Köster, completely denied that anything had happened.

On the other hand, a headline in the left-wing newspaper, *taz*, read like a throwback to Nazi times: "Wallmann gets the beating he deserves".

It is fortunate that this sort of open support of political terror against those who have a different political opinion is not supported by any democratic party, including the Greens, nor by trade-union officials.

The public prosecutor's office will now be looking into the affair.

The incident itself underlines the growing hostility in political discussions, especially over the planned amendment to paragraph 116 (the so-called "strike paragraph") of the labour law, which is intended, among other things, to widen the limit on social security money payable during strikes.

Although the SPD and the trade unions reject the assault, many say they understand the fury of workers who see their right to strike being cut back.

On the other hand, the business manager of the CDU, Heiner Geissler, a man familiar with character assassination, is unwilling to accept any apologies.

Trade union officials who now complain about the bad publicity they are getting because of the action of a tiny minority of members should hit back at unjustified generalisations by expelling the louts. By using physical violence they have not only brought their own organisation into discredit, but also threaten to destroy the very basis of political tolerance in this country.

(Der Tagesspiegel, Berlin, 14 January 1986)

Heady election buzz rises in the Bonn air

This is the year of the general election campaign. The election itself is not until next year, but the mood as the Bundestag goes into session again is such that the form the campaign is likely to take is evolving.

The topics on the agendas of the various party executive committees, parliamentary groups, work groups, and investigation committees give a rough idea of what the campaign will be all about.

There is, for example, heated dispute over a proposed amendment to the labour law which would tighten provisions governing strikes. This issue reflects the possible mood of the next few months.

Many of the bills up for debate outline how the parties will stand during the campaign. Parliamentary question time provided a first opportunity to tackle a mixed bag of topics.

Two of the most controversial were: the case of the Mayor of Frankfurt, Walter Wallmann, who was assaulted during a trade union meeting in the city; and the premature deployment of American cruise missiles in the Hunsrück area.

The Greens broached the subject of compensation for the victims of the Nazi regime, and Hermann Fellner (CSU) apologised for the statements he made about compensation being paid to Jewish victims of the Nazi forced-labour policy.

This was followed by a debate on the extension of military service.

The government's bill sets out to make sure that there will be enough new recruits in the Bundeswehr after 1989.

Apart from extending the basic period of military service the government hopes to make the whole conscription system fairer.

This discussion was accompanied by a debate on the amendment of the laws of conscientious objection.

Issues in the fields of internal security, labour and social welfare laws will dominate the political discussion over the next few months.

Labour law paragraph 116 will continue to cause problems.

The coalition government still feels that it will be able to get its parliamentary work done on time.

The SPD will continue to try and turn the strike law question into election campaign capital.

Labour Minister, Norbert Blüm, hopes to push through a law relating to the planning of the need for doctors working for the national health insurance scheme.

In addition, he hopes to separate the question of war victim welfare from the field of social welfare benefit as a whole, and will be discussing ideas on reforming the pension and health insurance systems.

Interior Minister, Friedrich Zimmermann, the number one butt of opposition criticism, has also got a number of controversial pre-election ambitions.

The leader of the SPD's parliamentary group, Hans-Jochen Vogel, played on the "scandals" associated with the present government in Bonn when he outlined his party's key election issues on 14 January.

The law relating to collaboration between the various fields of intelligence operations is disputed within the coalition, and it looks as if the FDP may cause some problems here.

Interior Minister Zimmermann will again be trying to present himself as a protector of the environment during the election campaign.

He will be introducing a number of bills to the Bundestag, dealing with the fields of water, sewage, detergents, noise and air pollution.

Whereas an observant opposition always keeps a wary eye on Zimmermann's activities, Justice Minister, Hans Engelhard, is able to do most of his work behind the scenes, concentrating on fields which are of less public interest, e.g. occupational laws for lawyers.

It is still not clear how successful the bill against so-called white-collar crime, which includes computer crime and the illegal hiring of temporary employees, will be.

Attempts will be made in the Bundestag to merge the federal building law with the town and country planning act.

Critics, however, feel that the law covering construction-related activities and environmental protection should be included in the new building laws.

The Bundestag will also have to deal with a new housing promotion bill.

Economics Minister, Martin Bangemann, will be introducing a new version of the Law Against Restraints on Competition to the Bundestag as well as of the so-called profiteering paragraph.

There is unlikely to be any alteration of shop closing hours.

Finance Minister, Gerhard Stoltenberg, will be submitting the 1987 budget after the summer recess.

However, the general election in January 1987 will have to decide who will be able to look after and spend the taxpayers' money.

Ekkehard Kohrs

(General-Anzeiger Bonn, 16 January 1986)

■ MINORITY GROUPS

Protesters take to streets after murder of Turk

About 10,000 people, at least half of them Turks, took part in an anti-racist rally in Hamburg in protest against the death of a 26-year-old Turk, Ramazan Avci, at the hands of extreme right-wing skinheads at Christmas. Professor Hakki Keskin, chairman of a protest group set up after Avci's death, accused the police and law enforcement authorities of not doing enough to protect foreign nationals,

The political background to Ramazan Avci's death is becoming clearer: the skinheads who tailed him, ran him over in their car, broke his legs and hips and smashed his head in have close ties with the neo-Nazi scene in Hamburg.

Three of the four men in custody in connection with the death belong to a gang of skinheads who hunt down foreigners. The leaders are young neo-Nazis.

Three weeks before Avci was mugged, skinheads broke both hands of a friend of his not far from where he was assaulted. A week after Avci died a coloured man was mugged nearby.

Two skinhead axioms are "thou shalt kill" and "always be well armed."

Yet the skinheads were initially a harmless gang who differed from punks, teds or bombers merely in their close-shorn heads, their ex-army boots and their war cry ("Oy!").

But the skinheads are now led by neo-Nazis who use racist slogans to mobilise the ranks to hunt foreigners and "dirty Germans" — punks, *for instance.*

In Bergedorf, a Hamburg suburb, neo-Nazi Michael Kühnen and his henchmen have been known to invite skinheads to target practice in the forest land east of Hamburg and ply them with free beer as they drive round in armoured personnel carriers.

Kühnen is a former Bundeswehr lieutenant who is known throughout the country as a neo-Nazi leader. He is at the moment in prison.

His henchmen have made skilful use of a vacuum in local authority youth welfare work. *Social workers don't like* working with youngsters who shout *Sieg Heil!*

"Why shouldn't I be proud of the legacy of a great nation in me?" skinheads ask in one of their leaflets. They talk about the "lice in the hide of the welfare state" and proclaim solidarity with "the rebels in Afghanistan."

They believe in going regularly to the hairdressers, keeping clean and polishing their boots. They claim to champion the cause of the family ("Honour thy father and thy mother").

Their strategy is to hit Turks until they hit back, then report them to the police. Sooner or later, they reason, the Turk will be deported.

In Bergedorf this method works. Many young Turks have been reported to the police.

Young foreigners do not as a rule go to the police when they are assaulted. They prefer to join forces and hit back, forming gangs to get their own back on the skinheads.

There have been regular skirmishes *for the past three years. The Germans,* with their close-cropped hair and their purported preference for "the law," have in general fared better with the police.

The skinheads feel they are in the right. They feel they have support from others in the community. There is a widespread feeling that too many foreigners live in the Federal Republic, so why not put in the boot if they refuse to leave voluntarily?

Jokes about Turks are popular. Workmates don't like foreigners and people look on impassively as skinheads assault them.

On Hansaplatz, a busy square in the city centre, two skinheads beat a Turkish girl for a quarter of an hour without anyone either intervening or calling in the police.

Initially skinheads merely sought to put the wind up foreigners and, of course, to injure them. Now they accept the idea that *their victims* may well die.

"We wanted to 'do the Turk in," a skinhead said last July when he and two friends mugged a 29-year-old Turk and smashed his skull with a paving stone.

The CDU Opposition leader in Hamburg's assembly said about the murder of Ramazan Avci that he didn't believe that gangs specifically attacked foreigners.

Skinhead activities were "perfectly normal juvenile gang criminality."

The municipal authorities see no signs of deliberate moves either, saying the murder was an isolated case with no political connotations.

But Turkish politicians and newspapers have reminded their fellow-countrymen of the fate of the Jews in Germany in connection with the Avci case.

"Our fellow-countrymen feel insecure and ill at ease in Hamburg," says the Turkish consul-general. "Daily, in buses and trains and on the street, they have visions of being attacked." Few still feel safe enough to go out alone.

When a Turkish youngster in Bergedorf wants to leave his immediate neighbourhood he doesn't go alone. Nearly all Turkish youths in Bergedorf carry knives or cudgels.

Cordt Schnibben

(Die Zeit, Hamburg, 10 January 1986)

Call for ban on skinheads — but would it work?

DEUTSCHES ALLGEMEINES SONNTAGSBLATT

Axel Wernitz, an SPD legal expert, wants skinheads to be outlawed. However, the question is: could a ban be enforced?

Would a ban help security? Or help reduce the risk posed by right-wing extremism?

Three extreme right-wing organisations have been banned in recent years: the *Wehrsportgruppe Hoffmann* in 1980, Friedhelm Busse's *Volkssozialistische Bewegung* in 1982 and Michael Kühnen's *Aktionsfront Nationaler Sozialisten* in 1983.

The last is regarded as the most dangerous.

Bans can be imposed on the basis of Article 9 of Basic Law, the 1949 *Bonn* constitution, and Paragraph *3 of the* Registered Societies Act.

"Associations the aims or activities of which are in breach of the criminal code, the constitution or the idea of international understanding are prohibited," Basic Law says.

By the terms of the Registered Societies Act the Federal Interior Minister is entitled to impose a ban on groups organised all over the country, while *Land* Interior Ministers can ban such organisations in their own *Länder*.

People affected by a ban on an *organisation* can appeal to the administrative courts. Politicians fear few things more than a ban being lifted because it only gives the banned organisation status.

In a democratic country under the rule of law there are strict limits to the restrictions that can be imposed on freedom of association.

It is not enough for individual members of an organisation to engage in criminal activities or pursue unconstitutional objectives.

The authorities should have little difficulty in proving that the Hamburg thugs are not just bully boys but also motivated by neo-Nazi ideas and hatred of foreigners.

But how is a ban to be issued or enforced? Who is to be notified? The constitution envisages organised associations with a committee, membership lists and funds that can be impounded.

Skinheads are loosely associated groups of young people who join forces in hooliganism and right-wing slogans.

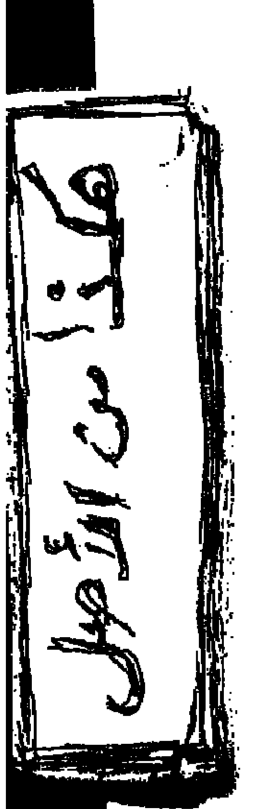
They aren't organised in the way that registered societies are, and you can hardly ban short-cropped hair, hobnailed boots and going to soccer games.

Even assuming the authorities could prove that skinheads are sufficiently organised, at least in some places, to make it possible to ban them, what good would a ban do?

The relevant legislation is aimed at deterring offenders (a concept the experts call into question) and at destroying the organisation of extremist groups.

But skinheads have neither a registered office and files of members and sympathisers, nor printing machinery

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Greek-born Joannis Sakellariou is now a German Social Democrat member of the European Parliament.

Euro report on resurgence of fascism

When, some years ago, he applied to become a German citizen, local authority officials made him take a language test.

He was asked to read a paragraph from a tabloid daily newspaper even though it was clear that he was a Munich University graduate.

It was an experience which he still regards with disbelief.

He knows what difficulties foreigners can face in Germany: pigheadedness, ignorance, open hostility, undisguised hatred.

Now a sub-committee of the European Parliament has drawn up a report on the resurgence of Fascism and racism in Europe.

Nearly all 434 MEPs agree that the 140-page report is a first step towards hitting back at xenophobia and Fascist and racist tendencies in all 12 European Community countries.

The report, Mr Sakellariou says, tapping the cover to emphasise his point, is an unprecedented review of the situation.

Yet both the European People's Party, the conservative group in the European Parliament, and the Socialists engaged in a hopelessly involved debate on points of order when the report was finally due to be discussed.

The Left initially planned to debate the report and its findings at the end of January, but with a general election due in France in March, the Right felt the debate might influence the election campaign.

So right-wingers insisted on debating the report immediately or not at all. Right-wing extremists led by France's Jean-Marie Le Pen may well welcome the debate, especially as the sub-committee that drew up the report was set up on their account.

Rolf Linkohr, Social Democratic MEP for Stuttgart, says: "It is the duty of all democratic forces to oppose racist and nationalist tendencies.

Siegbert Alber, vice-president of the European Parliament and a Stuttgart Christian Democrat, agrees.

A European regional and social policy is what is needed, he argues. It is the only way in which extremism can be nipped in the bud.

Tradesmen, small-scale business and component manufacturing must be encouraged and promoted in designated European development areas — and Herr Alber says he explicitly envisages Turkey being designated a development area.

What point is there in importing migrant labour to industrial areas when reversing the process is the only approach that makes sense? Who, he asks, willingly leaves his native country?

Rolf Linkohr agrees, seeing xenophobia on the increase, especially in the context of social and economic difficulties.

Herr Linkohr favours the franchise for migrant workers and their families in local government elections, seeing the vote as a way of speeding up the process of integration.

MEPs are well aware that their powers are strictly limited and that there is no way in which they can work wonders. They merely make recommendations.

The report recommends attaching special importance to what teachers are taught about civics.

Dialogue between individuals, institutions and organisations in Europe that fight racism and are committed to human rights must be promoted.

That costs money, and the DM78bn European Community budget is on a par with that of a single German *Land*, North Rhine-Westphalia, population 17m.

Legwork — small-scale activity — is the remaining option, and Herr Alber for one is active in twinning arrangements between local authorities.

The report recommends dialogue at the local authority level, meetings between Germans and foreigners, more cultural ties and local media coverage more actively campaigning in support of integration.

That, it says, is the only way in which a long-term change can be wrought in people's attitudes.

Günter Barner

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 4 January 1986)

■ GOVERNMENT

Foreign affairs: the committee behind the parliament behind the nation

DAS PARLAMENT

The Bundestag foreign affairs committee is one of the Bonn parliament's largest and most important committees.

It has 35 members, which make it numerically the second biggest committee after the finance committee (the social affairs committee also has 35 members).

The size reflects the increase in the Federal Republic's international commitments over the years.

The committee does not generally have much to do with legislation but foreign affairs often dominates Bundestag proceedings.

The parties all agree that international disputes should be solved peacefully, but in spite of this, there are differences of approach which lead to clashes between government and Opposition.

Chancellor Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU/CSU) feel committed to continuity along the lines that have guided foreign policy since the Federal Republic was founded in 1949.

Two cornerstones of this policy are:

- Safeguarding peace and freedom by solidarity within the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (Nato); and
- Cooperating with Eastern European countries with the aim of resolving fundamental political issues on the basis of long-term relationships.

Problems of *Deutschlandpolitik* and disarmament rank high.

Since losing power in Bonn in 1982 the Social Democrats (SPD) have naturally continued to nurse their contacts with foreign governments and countries.

One of their main concerns is to promote ties with the East. They were heavily committed to this while in office.

The Christian Democrats now accuse the SPD of pursuing "a harmful secondary foreign policy" by holding independent negotiations and concluding agreement with ruling parties in East Bloc countries.

The Free Democrats (FDP) also want to pursue foreign policies largely identified with FDP Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, who has held office for longer than any of his counterparts and is held in high international repute.

At times the Liberals emphasis is slightly different to their coalition partners, the Christian Democrats.

Green Bundestag MPs are often strongly committed on foreign policy issues. Their initiatives are particularly concerned with the so-called Third World in the widest sense of the term.

Not all MPs who address the Bundestag on foreign policy issues are members of the foreign affairs committee. Leading members of the parliamentary parties often do as well — which shows how important foreign affairs are.

In day-to-day work committee members (17 Christian Democrats, 14 Social Democrats, two Free Democrats and two Greens) concentrate largely on countries in which they specialise.

The daily routine consists largely of reading government reports on all major foreign policy proceedings, of requesting more information, of conducting qualified exchanges with the government and, most importantly, of exercising parliamentary control over foreign policy.

The hardest work is put in by a number of spokesmen for the committee and the respective parliamentary party leaders and their deputies on the committee.

That means Hans Klein as chairman of the Christian Democrats' foreign policy working committee and CDU MP Heinz Schwarz.

Social Democrat Horst Ehmke is chairman of the SPD parliamentary party's foreign affairs committee, while Karsten Voigt and Günter Herterich are chairman and vice-chairman of the SPD group in the Bundestag foreign affairs committee.

For the Free Democrats these roles are combined by Helmut Schäfer, for the Greens by Annemarie Borgmann.

Two leading CDU/CSU foreign policy experts died not long ago. They were Alois Mertes, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, and long-serving Bundestag foreign affairs committee chairman Werner Marx.

Hans Stercken, an internationally experienced MP and negotiator, took over as chairman. Fellow-members of the CDU/CSU on the committee who have given distinguished service include Karl-Heinz Hornhues, Michaela Geiger, Otto Wulff and Volker Rühe.

Distinguished SPD committeemen include Annemarie Renger, Deputy Speaker of the Bundestag, Egon Bahr, the SPD disarmament expert, Günter Verheugen, the former FDP general secretary, and Dietrich Stobbe, the former Governing Mayor of Berlin.

FDP members include former Agriculture Minister Josef Ertl, an experienced European. Many other members of the committee have established a high reputation on specific issues.

The foreign affairs committee shares with the defence and petition committees the distinction of being one of the committees the Bundestag is constitutionally required to set up.

Like the defence and intra-German affairs committees, its proceedings are, in principle, confidential and held in camera.

Only full members and their deputies are allowed to attend. Minutes are not distributed. They are filed as confidential documents in the safe of the committee's secretariat.

Sub-committees are set up to deal with important issues that regularly confront the committee. They usually join forces with members of other Bundestag committees.

Current sub-committees deal with disarmament and arms control, humanitarian aid (such as disaster relief), broadcasting (Deutsche Welle and Deutschlandfunk) and cultural diplomacy as the third mainstay of foreign policy.

International cultural exchange is designed to ensure ongoing relations on a basis of confidence. In past parliaments several working parties have looked into cultural diplomacy as part of a commission of inquiry; their recommendations have been incorporated in official policy.

The second mainstay of foreign policy is trade and economic ties, the promotion of which grows increasingly important in relation to the Third World and its population growth, food, commodity, energy and environmental problems.

As a result the foreign service is *more heavily dependent* than ever on economics specialists.

That brings us to a special and increasingly urgent problem. For years the German foreign service has trailed its growing international duties in manpower, especially manpower with economic expertise.

There has long been talk of remedying this state of affairs, and the foreign affairs committee is particularly keen to see an improvement.

The committee held a three-day hearing to look into staff shortages in the foreign service, and the Federal government has begun to act on its recommendations.

Manpower at German diplomatic and consular missions is to be increased this year with the emphasis on foreign trade promotion.

Frequent items on the committee's agenda include Poland, the Middle East, Afghanistan, Central America, Turkey and South Africa, plus more wide-ranging topics such as North-South ties, the Helsinki review conferences, East-West relations and arms exports.

More recently, the committee held a public hearing on European Union last autumn and has just held another on SDI.

At the invitation of the National People's Congress a committee delegation headed by its chairman, Dr Stercken, has visited China for the first time.

So the Bundestag foreign affairs committee has a wide-ranging brief and a wide range of issues to consider.

It plays a crucial role in ensuring that German foreign policy is as widely based as possible and its progress is attentively and critically monitored.

(Das Parlament, Bonn, 11 January 1986)

Continued from page 4

on which they print their leaflets and extremist slogans.

They don't have large sums of money either.

Yet they have assumed dangerous proportions even though not everyone who wears skinhead gear is a thug and not every bother boy is a racist.

Young people who drift into the skinhead scene find not only hooliganism and extremist slogans but also comradeship and understanding of a sort.

Banning skinheads is not enough. A much more effective way of dealing with right-wing extremism would arguably be for young people on the point of having their hair cut short and buying hobnailed boots to find jobs.

Stefan Geiger

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, Hamburg, 12 January 1986)

■ FINANCE

An aristocrat in the dock at bank-scandal trial

Bankers in the Federal Republic of Germany will find it difficult to stomach a news item in the latest edition of the banking magazine *Euromoney*.

One of the most prominent representatives of the West German "money aristocracy", Count Ferdinand von Galen, has been remanded in custody charged with fraud and the misappropriation of funds.

The magazine gives a detailed description of the prison in Frankfurt in which he is being held, which it calls "the worst prison in the state of Hesse, perhaps the worst prison in the whole of the Federal Republic".

"Murderers, rapists and terrorists" are among the prison's 1,800 detainees.

The fact that they have been joined by the former personally liable partner of the Schröder, Münchmeyer, Hengst & Co. (SMH) private bank, Count von Galen, has come as a shock to the entire banking world.

Count von Galen, together with his former colleagues, Hans-Hermann Münchmeyer, Hans Lampert and Wolfgang Stryj have been blamed for causing one of the country's worst-ever banking crises.

One of the chief witnesses in this case is Horst-Dieter Esch.

The friendship between von Galen and Esch, a very shady building vehicle manufacturer, was the beginning of the end of von Galen's brilliant career as a banker.

As recently as September 1982 the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland* praised the virtues of the then much-respected banker, Count Ferdinand von Galen.

Only 14 months later the ideal world praised by this and many other newspapers had collapsed.

Von Galen was forced to familiarise himself with the word "crisis" on 1 November, 1983. The bank in which he was a personally liable partner had come to the end of the road.

It soon became clear that this bank had misdirected funds to the value of DM1bn, almost ten times its equity capital base.

The financial world was shaken by the biggest bank collapse since the Herstatt scandal.

The trial, now beginning in Frankfurt, is expected to last 10 months, during which almost 250 witnesses will give evidence.

The prosecution accuses von Galen and the other three personally liable partners of the SMH bank, Hans Lampert, Wolfgang Stryj and Hans-Hermann Münchmeyer, of fraud and misappropriation in seven cases as well as publishing a security issue prospectus with intent to deceive.

Whereas von Galen and Lampert will have to wait until 23 January before appearing before court, Münchmeyer, Stryj, and the co-defendant, Ralph-René Lucius, a former senior executive as the bank, may have already been released.

Münchmeyer and Lucius have already made a partial confession.

Since the prosecuting attorneys have accepted the fact that these two defendants cannot be held as responsible for the crime as the others, their cases, and Stryj's too, are being dealt with separately.

Count von Galen appears to have had a premonition of what was going to happen.

During the presentation of the bank's annual accounts in March 1983, von Galen stated that the bank would be unlikely to be able to again achieve such an "excellent" operating result.

At that time, the SMH bank ranked as one of the most sound financial institutions in the Federal Republic of Germany.

Von Galen, a member of an aristocratic family from the Münsterland region, had a brilliant career behind him.

Although he did not finish his studies of Law, he soon proved his worth as a private banker, and was acquainted with all members of the banking world with any standing or reputation.

Banking circles from Kuwait to California, it was claimed, listened to what von Galen had to say.

His wife Anita (maiden name; Hengst) was known as the "beautiful countess", and was famous for the glittering parties she gave in Frankfurt.

She is the godmother of the children of Karl Otto Pöhl, the head of the Bundesbank; and Count von Galen himself was the president of the Frankfurt Stock Exchange since 1982.

Von Galen, who was born in 1935, began his banking career by working for the Basse & Herz banking house in Frankfurt, which was forced to close down in 1974.

In 1966 von Galen married the daughter of the "banker with the white carnation", Friedrich Hengst.

This was when von Galen's career really took off.

He moved into the Hengst bank, and in 1969 merged with the two Hamburg-based banks, Schröder and Münchmeyer, to form the SMH bank.

Von Galen was always the man in charge of the operation, soon moving into the lucrative field of investments and securities.

Hans-Hermann Münchmeyer, who was the only direct descendant of the

Frankfurter Rundschau

bank's founder families to sit in a management position, found it difficult to stand up to the Count's ambitiousness.

Although Münchmeyer, the brother of the economics minister in Lower Saxony, Birgit Breuel, was intelligent, he didn't have the staying power take charge of the bank.

The relationship between von Galen and Münchmeyer is known to be extremely strained.

Von Galen is reputed to have regularly told Münchmeyer what and what not to do.

The other two partners in the bank with personal liability, Lampert and Stryj, are also reputed to have been no more than assistants to the man with real power in the bank, von Galen.

Lampert's and Stryj's shares in the bank's capital are relatively small and by and large financed by loans.

The shareholding structure reflects the distribution of power in the bank.

By marrying the daughter of Friedrich Hengst, Anita, von Galen secured about 45 per cent of the bank; whereas the Münchmeyer family only holds a third of the shares, and the Schröder family a tenth.

In 1979 the SMH set up a subsidiary in Luxembourg.

By the end of 1982, the probable peak of its history, the bank was the sixth largest private bank in the Federal Republic of Germany.

It had 349 employees, a volume of business to the tune of DM2.7bn, excluding the DM1.1bn at the subsidiary in Luxembourg.

It soon became clear, however, that the bank was built on very shaky foundations, even though the real cracks only appeared relatively recently.

It was the building vehicle manufacturer, Horst-Dieter Esch, who burst the bank's bubble of apparent success.

Esch had set up the Internationale Baumaschinen-Holding (IBH) in 1975.

Up to this very day, nobody knows where he got his initial capital.

He didn't need all that much anyway, since he received the firms he incorporated into the IBH — to begin with, Duomat, Zettelmeyer and Hamm, and later on, Hanomag, the English company, Hymac, and the US company, Terex — for next to nothing.

The owners of these firms, such as Massey Ferguson (Hanomag), Babcock (Hymac) or General Motors (Terex) were glad to find somebody willing to take on their ailing subsidiaries.

In some cases, Esch paid in IHB shares.

Von Galen first started doing business with Esch, who was to be later praised as one of the greater self-made men of West German industry, in 1980.

The IBH took over the concrete pump manufacturing company, Wibau, from the SMH bank, a company which was hardly worth one iota.

The bank then participated in the IBH equity capital (7.5 per cent).

Whereas this liaison was a godsend for Esch, it was the beginning of the end for von Galen.

Esch had ambitious plans, but no banks willing to help him put them into practice.

Von Galen was the only man with any confidence in the man who had built up an empire out of run-down firms.

Von Galen was fascinated by Esch's vitality, and willingly provided the money for his dubious projects.

In 1982 Esch presented the IBH as the third largest building vehicle manufacturing group in the world, with about 11,000 employees and a turnover of DM2.5bn.

Well-known companies such as General Motors, Powell Duffryn, Babcock, the Dallah group and the Saudi Arabian Sheikh Kamel were among the IBH shareholders.

Admittedly, Esch forgot to mention that the company's equity capital (DM240m) had been completely eaten away by the company's losses.

Four days after the SMH bank almost collapsed Esch was forced to initiate composition proceedings for the IBH group.

Esch maintained that he had understimated the crisis in the building industry.

During his last press conference he explained: "The fact that I have been unable to gain the support of the major banks for the IBH is my biggest failure".

Even some of the big banks would have found the IBH a tough nut to crack.

Esch borrowed almost DM950m from von Galen and his group, almost



Count von Galen : . . wife threw 'glittering parties'. (Photo: dpa)

nine times the equity capital base of the SMH bank.

According to the law, the bank was only entitled to lend a maximum of 75 per cent of its own funds to any single customer.

In the meantime, this ceiling level has been reduced to fifty per cent.

The fact that the bank supervision authorities failed to notice what was happening was a result of the clever cover-up tactics used by the SMH.

They found three ways of deceiving the authorities in Berlin, which by law have to be regularly informed about a bank's financial transactions.

First of all, the bank's loans were not all made to the IBH, something the authorities would have noticed straight away, but to a number of different firms.

In doing so, the SMH bank took advantage of a legal loophole, since business enterprises are only regarded as a business group if they have the sam management are close economic links.

Secondly, Esch received money via the Luxembourg subsidiary.

Although the banking world had agreed in a kind of "gentleman's agreement" to inform the authorities about business dealings with the Grand Duchy, Galen & Co. only mentioned small amounts.

Thirdly, the SMH bank and a firm operated jointly with Esch in Switzerland took over the debts of the IBH group.

This way, Esch was able to keep his head above water, whereas this money was not recorded as a loan to the IBH in the account books of the SMH.

The bank supervision authorities, however, eventually got wise to these tricks, and von Galen was oblig[illegible] the whole story to his main creditors, the Dresdner Bank, the Deutsche Bank, the Bank für Gemeinwirtschaft, and the Badische Kommunale Landesbank.

The result was an unparalleled rescue operation in Frankfurt on 1 November, 1983.

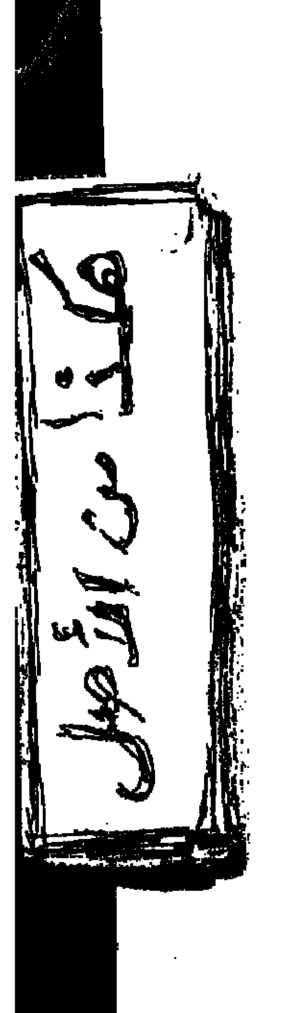
[illegible]tatives of the 20 banks owed money by the SMH, the president of the Bundesbank, Karl Otto Pöhl, and bank supervision official, Inge-Lore Bähre, were all interested in preventing a total collapse of the SMH bank.

They feared that there might otherwise be a serious loss of confidence in the West German banking system.

The creditor banks finally agreed to leave DM490m in loans as SMH equity capital, and the deposit guarantee fund of the private banks provided a further DM345m.

The remaining debts (the bank had also lost million of marks in the fur business) were to be settled in the form of the personally liable partners' own

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Imagine an office electronics system that can read handwriting fast and accurately, convert it into electronic impulses and then process the documents recorded and stored.

A computer that can read and handle handwriting may seem little short of magic but is only a minor step forward. They are already at the development stage.

Paper Interface is the name of the game. AEG of Germany, Olivetti of Italy, Philips of Holland and Britain's Plessey are busy converting paper into electronics and vice-versa under this project name.

Development engineers are undismayed by complex originals combining typescript, signatures, graphs, drawings and symbols.

AEG can draw on experience with the German postal authorities, for whom it designed and built electronic sorting machines that can "read" addresses.

A reading device that can handle different scripts is merely the next step.

Speech Interface, a project in which work stations are to be given spoken instructions, is a fitting further development in the robot age.

AEG are working on this project in collaboration with Nixdorf of Germany, CGE of France and Stet of Italy, plus Amsterdam and Athens Universities.

All these projects form part of Esprit, the European Strategic Programme for

■ ELECTRONICS

Project aims at making sure Europe chips in as well

Research into Information Technology. Esprit is a 10-year programme (1984-1993) partly financed by the European Community and intended to give European industry a decisive nudge to help it regain a competitive edge in world markets.

The programme covers five sectors: advanced microelectronics, software technology, advanced information processing, office systems and computer-integrated production.

In its first five years Espirit is expected to cost over DM3.35bn, of which the European Community is to contribute half.

Esprit will promote research and development at the pre-competition stage, unlike Eureka, a technology community aimed straight at the market.

A crucial point for manufacturers is that they must be able to sell products in a large market that makes mass production worthwhile.

So a number of information technology systems are mutually compatible and can be interlinked.

Nixdorf in collaboration with Olivetti, Philips, AEG and Bull of France are in charge of pprogrammes including the OSI, short for Open System Interconnect.

The aim is to ensure uniform interfaces for the various systems, thereby making international communications possible.

Much the same can be said of the Portable Common Tool Environment, a programme led by Bull in collaboration with Nixdorf, Siemens, Olivetti and Britain's GEC and ICL.

The aim is to develop joint software tools that are mutually compatible. Here too, uniform interfaces need de-

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

vising. The combination of companies associated with these projects is the result of a basic requirement of the Esprit programme: project partners must come from at least two European Community countries.

In an interim balance-sheet a body asked by the European Commission to assess the programme's progress says there are clear indications that collaboration has already gone beyond Esprit's terms of reference and "is leading to the establishment of joint projects with several partners."

The Bull, ICL and Siemens software centre is mentioned as a case in point. It is a joint research institute in Munich that looks into future computer programmes.

Software with a greatly increased capacity is developed at the centre for extremely complex programmes, paving the way to a new dimension, the fifth computer generation or artificial intelligence (if you can stomach the term).

Siemens of Munich claim to spend more on research and development than any other European firm: DM4.5bn a year, or between eight and nine per cent of turnover.

As part of Esprit Siemens are involved in work on electronic components (microelectronics), programme structures for electronic data processing and communications techniques in office systems.

The company are also associated with computer-assisted manufacture by way of electronically controlled machine tools. From design to manufacture the entire production process is to be computer-assisted without individual wishes needing to be set aside.

The computer is programmed to produce first a green car, then a black car on the assembly line if they are what is ordered.

European Community Research Ministers recently approved a further DM1.68bn in Esprit appropriations, and the demand is brisk.

Ninety per cent of funds so far approved has been allocated, and only about one application in four has been successful.

Twelve leading electronics firms in the European Community have called for the second stage of the Esprit programme to be brought forward and for cash and manpower input to be trebled.

The European Commission may have felt flattered but also felt unable to commit itself.

The queue was not unaccompanied by criticism such as that consumer and opto-electronics had been neglected, while too many small-scale projects were felt to have been backed, thereby wasting funds.

Smaller and medium-sized companies are understandably unhappy with delays in awarding contracts and in making payments.

There have also been calls for improved exchange of information within the Esprit programme.

Even Esprit's image has come in for criticism. One suggested improvement was an annual award for the best projects or innovations.

If a comment by one company involved is any guide, the outcome so far has been far from discouraging:

"*Before Esprit* we kept our eyes open for partners in the United States. We have now come to appreciate Europe's technological capabilities and keep our eyes open for partners in Europe."

Klaus Bohnhof

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 9 January 1986)

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funds and assets. Apart from the assets owned by von Galen's wife, his own private assets, estimated at DM100m, were to be used for this purpose.

Only a few million marks were available in Münchmeyer's case, and Lampert and Stryj had virtually no private assets at all.

Finally, the Lloyds Bank bought the sound lines of business belonging to the SMH bank for between DM150 and DM200m.

About a year after this rescue operation von Galen was arrested in Frankfurt.

Together with Lampert and Stryj his arrest was justified by pointing towards the risk that they might try to flee the country.

Count von Galen has been held in custody in Frankfurt ever since, and even a bail figure of DM16m, the largest amount ever put up for bail in this country, has been unable to get him out.

The total amount of misappropriated funds is put at about DM750m.

Münchmeyer will have to face three separate charges, von Galen and Stryj five, and Lampert seven.

The charge of publishing a security issue prospectus and placing new issues at a time when the Wibau firm was more or less bust (spring 1983) is a particularly juicy [illegible] Galen was president of the Frankfurt Stock Exchange at the time.

There have been two verdicts do far.

The head of the Wibau, Roland Spicka, has been sentenced to six years and nine months imprisonment.

Esch, as the manager of this company's supervisory board, has been sentenced to three-and-a-half years imprisonment and can expect another period in prison in his capacity as the head of the IBH.

There are signs that Esch has done a deal with the prosecuting attorneys and will not give evidence against von Galen.

Von Galen is also unlikely to receive any support from Münchmeyer.

Perhaps von Galen's wife will help him out of trouble.

Mario Müller

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 11 January 1986)

High-definition TV crucial, says minister

Bonn Research Minister Heinz Riesenhuber feels the European entertainment electronics industry's future will largely depend on whether it can hold its own in the face of tough Japanese competition in developing high-definition (HD) television for the 1990s.

As part of Eureka, the European technology community, he called on industry to grasp the European initiative and ensure that Japan wasn't left to its own devices in developing HD TV as it had been in other growth sectors.

By the 1990s Herr Riesenhuber expects a fundamental technological revolution to have taken place in TV. Picture standards dating back to the 1940s will [illegible] screen standard internationally known as HD TV.

Alongside the process of innovation that led to the emergence of 625-line colour TV, research has got under way, especially in Japan, with a view to introducing large-screen TV on the basis of a high-line standard.

The number of lines on the screen will probably be twice today's figure. The target will be a TV system with superb picture quality. HD TV is said to fill the entire field of vision with pictures at least equal in quality to 35-mm cinema films.

Viewers are said to see the picture as a real live scene. Technically the picture format will be changed to a ratio of about 5:3, equivalent to wide-screen standard. Definition will be about eight times better due to the correspondingly larger number of dots on the screen.

HD TV, which will call for entirely new transmission and reception technologies, will be available by the 1990s both by radio and TV satellites and by the fibre-optic cable networks the Post Office will by then have in operation.

The market potential associated with this fundamental system innovation will only be a risk German industry can afford to run, Herr Riesenhuber says, once uniform international HD standards have been agreed.

German industry can only make an effective contribution of its own toward the international standardisation debate if its contribution is based on outstanding research and development results.

As the development of uniform HD standards can only be accomplished via international cooperation the German government would like to see a greater degree of European cooperation in this sector.

The position of the entertainment industry in Europe, Herr Riesenhuber said in Bonn, was generally serious. For that reason alone a joint approach to HD TV development was an essential industrial policy requirement.

Eureka, he said, was a suitable framework for cooperation on both technical issues, including standardisation, and marketing strategy.

Despite the current Japanese lead the Minister feels the development of independent contributions toward an international HD TV standard is a worthwhile and strategically important target.

The progress in large-scale integration technology, high-speed electronics, wide-band transmission, signal processing and end receiver technology needed to introduce large-screen TV are without precedent in currently conceivable civilian uses of telecommunications.

But HD TV will be a pacemaker in this sector of technology, leaving only entertainment electronics manufacturers that take an active part from the outset in this technical revolution in TV (rather than just following in others' footsteps) with a long-term chance of survival.

In industrial research the Ministry usually grants a 50-per-cent subsidy to R.& D programmes such as high-definition TV.

Grants of up to 100 per cent are available for non-industrial research facilities.

Federal government funds totalling DM60m will be available over the period 1984-88.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich, 14 January 1986)

■ AVIATION

Lufthansa born 60 years ago in airlines merger

Lufthansa, Germany's national airline, was formed 60 years ago, in 1926, by a merger of Deutsche Aero Lloyd AG and Junkers Luftverkehr AG. The name was originally written Luft Hansa but was changed in 1933. (Luft means air and Hansa conveys the historic idea connected with the Hanseatic League of trading cities which included Hamburg, Lübeck and Bremen.) To mark the celebrations, the airline has restored a 50-year-old Junkers Ju 52 which is to be maintained and used for pleasure flights. An irony is that although Lufthansa was founded in Berlin and had close links with the city, it is not allowed to run services there. The service to Berlin, which is deep inside East Germany, is a monopoly of PanAm, British Airways and Air France, the carriers of the three Western occupying powers. The articles on this page look at the history of Lufthansa and its role in modern aviation.

Lufthansa was created at a meeting in Berlin's Hotel Kaiserhof on 6 January, 1926.

Gently urged on by the government, Deutsche Aero Lloyd AG and Junkers-Luftverkehrs AG merged to form Deutsche Luft Hansa AG.

Soon the new company was carrying 60,000 passengers a year. It was a civil aviation pioneer.

It flew over the Alps and the Andes. It developed airlines in South America and China, thus providing an early form of development aid.

Then the war came. Lufthansa's last scheduled flight was on 5 March 1945, from Oslo to Flensburg.

After the war, Germany was prevented from running any aviation business. The old Lufthansa organisation was dissolved.

However, almost-secret attempts to rebuild the nation's aviation business got under way.

Commissioned by the then Transport Minister Hans Christoph Seebohm, Hans Bongers, who had worked with the old Lufthansa, began the preliminaries for the establishment of a limited company for civil aviation.

The company was founded in January 1953 and a year later assumed the traditional name of Deutsche Lufthansa AG. In law the new company was not the successor to the old Lufthansa. And it was happy about this arrangement. It did not want to be landed with any of the old airline's liabilities, real or imagined.

For many years at the new company's annual meeting, speakers referred to the plight of many employees of the old firm, and demands were made for such things as pension payments.

In 1955, the new Lufthansa began flying again. Last year it carried 15 million passengers in about 130 aircraft.

In 1984, it had its best year ever. It seems that 1985 will be satisfactory.

But civil aviation is a tough business and the market changes rapidly. In addition there are too many airlines with top many aircraft.

Even in 1984 and 1985, when the upswing in international trade stimulated demand, airlines had to be satisfied with modest profits. They were nowhere nearly enough to reduce the losses that piled up between 1979 and 1983.

Although all the experts maintain that the industry will continue to be good in 1986, it is also reckoned that many airlines will operate in the red again.

But Lufthansa is not likely to be one of them. Even in bad years, it has managed to keep its head well above water.

One reason is that, like most European airlines, it operates in secure markets. The West German domestic market and European routes are protected from competition by national and international regulations.

In international aviation competition is greater if only because there is a whole series of important and major Far Eastern airlines that are able to disregard interstate tariff agreements.

A little while ago it did seem as if the protectionist walls around European scheduled flights would be liberalised. This has been done with charter airlines, which now carry about half of all passengers in Europe.

Spurred on by American deregulation, the European Commission has made efforts to open up European skies.

After one or two attempts, the Commission published a memorandum in 1984 which, if translated into reality, would mean a small step forward.

It envisages that rigid capacity and prices would be relaxed.

The European Court has supported the Commission. The Court says the Council of Ministers should stop hesitating and act: it has until the end of June to make recommendations.

Much will have to change in international aviation over the next 15 years.

IATA assumes that during this period the number of scheduled flight passengers carried annually will double to 1.6 billion. That would seem to be an inviting prospect.

But care needs to be taken with such forecasts. This growth will not be uniform. Most will be in the Asia-Pacific region. Europe and the US east coast will decline in relative terms.

This puts European airline managers in a difficult position. Over the next two or three years they must make decisions involving the structure of their fleet of aircraft for the next 10 years.

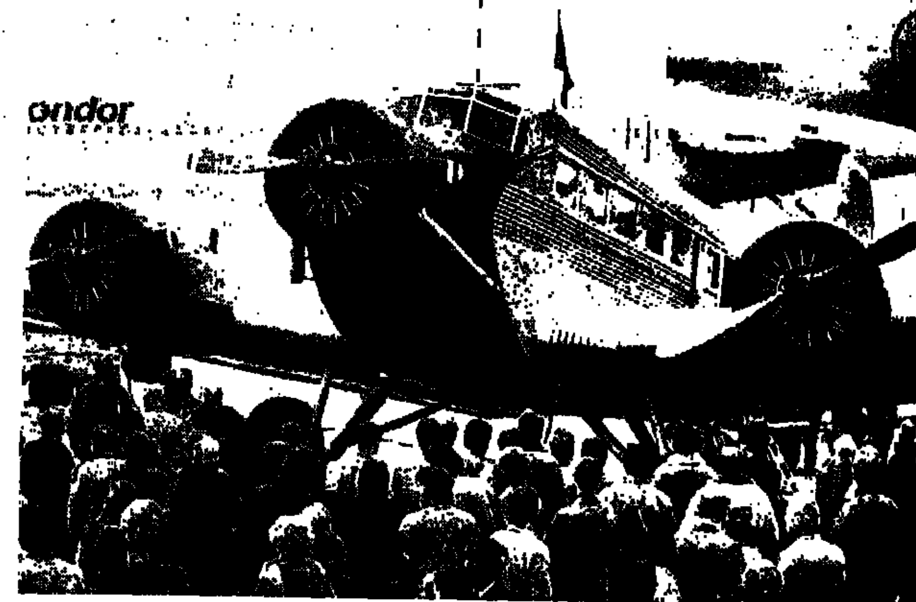
It can be taken as almost certain that they will not participate to the full in the international growth rate. No one believes that the nationalism that has developed into chauvinism, a factor of international aviation, will change.

This means that Lufthansa must apply its commercial policies with care.

Many Lufthansa personnel speak of doubling the fleet by the year 2000. But expansions of this order could be dangerous and would harm record results such as those achieved in 1984.

Joachim Walter

(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, Bonn, 11 January 1986)



Old plane, new face. Lufthansa's restored Ju 52 on show in Hamburg. (Photo: dpa)

A Junkers comes back from the junkyard

Frankfurter Rundschau

The showpiece of Lufthansa's 60th anniversary is a restored Junkers Ju 52 which is to be used for pleasure flights.

The machine, built 50 years ago in Dessau, in what is now East Germany, is 19 metres long and has a wing span of 29 metres.

It is to be named Tempelhof after the old Berlin airport. It was used on the run to Norway after going into service in 1935 but was soon taken over as a transporter by the Wehrmacht.

In 1945 it was acquired by the Norwegians and put in a museum. In 1957 it was sold to interests in Ecuador, where it flew for another 12 years before being put on the scrapheap.

In 1975, a Miami man, Martin Kaden, bought the dilapidated aircraft, got it back into flying condition, gave it a name ("Iron Annie") and used her for display flights.

In 1983 Lufthansa acquired it and it was brought to Hamburg after an adventurous, 16-day flight with nine stops on the way.

Restoration was difficult. First, the old blueprints and drawing had to be found and then the missing bits and pieces had to be remade.

Lufthansa men spent a whole year to bring the machine up to modern standards of airworthiness [illegible] navigation and [illegible] equipment were installed, but so far there is still at least one modern amenity that is missing — a heating system.

A large audience of guests and employees at the Hamburg base of Lufthansa heard the airline's deputy chairman, Reinhardt Abraham, say that the legendary Junkers aircraft would make an appearance at all airports in the Federal Republic.

It would also visit other European countries and would be shown off at air shows and other events during this anniversary year.

Lufthansa intends to set up a foundation to keep its oldest — also its newest — aircraft airworthy.

dpa

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 8 January 1986)

Irony in carrier's exclusion from Berlin run

Lufthansa veterans, pilots, engineers and mechanics from the early days, came to Berlin to celebrate the airline's 60th birthday.

They came from Eastern Europe and from many countries in Western Europe. They came from America.

One who was there was Friedrich Andreas Fischer von Poturzyn, 93. He is the man who thought up the name, Luft Hansa, when he was press officer for Junkers-Flugzeugwerke in Dessau. He now lives in Merano.

To mark the occasion, a carefully restored Junkers Ju 52 built 50 years ago in Dessau has been made airworthy. Lufthansa's deputy chairman, Reinhardt Abraham, revealed that this former workhorse had been worked on in the strictest secrecy specially as a surprise for the occasion.

The aircraft, to be called "Tempelhof" after the former central Berlin airport, is to be used for demonstration flights.

At a ceremony, West Berlin Mayor Eberhard Diepgen said airlines other than those belonging to the three occupying powers, Britain, France and the United States, should be allowed to fly to Berlin.

West Berlin should not be left out of any airline expansion between the Federal Republic and West Germany, he said. At present flights are limited to the Leipzig Fair.

Mayor Diepgen reported that in 1985 the Tegel airport had its best year yet since going its own way from Tempelhof ten years ago, processing 4.5 million passengers.

He said: "We hope that the blue crane, the Lufthansa symbol, will soon be regularly landing and taking off in our city."

Lufthansa chairman Heinz Ruhnau said he hoped that one day Lufthansa would be able to fly to West Berlin but that was a long-term target.

However, he said, he did not want to jeopardise 'freedom of access to the city in return for Berlin landing rights.

Lufthansa was on the best of terms with PanAm and British Airways, which looked after Lufthansa's interests in Berlin.

Heinz Ruhnau said that as in the past 60 years Lufthansa would do everything possible to remain technically at the top.

By the year 2000, he predicted, the Lufthansa fleet would be made up of 250 aircraft.

Dieter Dose

(Die Welt, Bonn, 7 January 1986)

■ ENERGY

Nuclear safety: reactor gets a good, testing wallop

DIE WELT

Reactor safety is still a highly controversial public issue. Although safety standards at German nuclear power stations are high by international standards, scientists are still trying to find ways of predicting what might happen if accidents and breakdowns do happen. They are also working on better ways of preventing emergencies.

About 200 German and foreign reactor safety experts met at Karlsruhe nuclear research establishment to discuss the ninth status report on the hot steam reactor safety project.

A report was presented on the first fire-fighting experiments ever carried out in a reactor safety container.

The Karlsruhe hot steam reactor safety project is based at a hot steam reactor shut down in 1971 but comparable with current commercial light-water reactors in the materials and components used.

The experiments involve testing equipment to the limits it can withstand, assuming the worst possible accident to have happened.

Stage One of the project was completed at the end of 1983; it cost DM102m.

Stage Two, costing roughly DM45m, began in 1984 and is scheduled to take four years.

The emphasis will be on failure tests of pipes and the reactor pressure container, on experiments with dynamic stress involving simulation of earthquakes and aircraft crashes, and on the fire trials mentioned earlier.

The aim of the programme is to check and ensure optimum measurement and checking procedures.

Preventing fires and stopping them from spreading by using materials that don't catch fire easily and by installing comprehensive fire fighting and warning systems are an important part of the safety concept at nuclear power stations.

For lack of practical experience safety concepts are still largely based on laboratory experiments, on experience of fires in conventional facilities and on complicated calculations.

The experiments now carried out for the first time in a hot steam reactor are intended to [illegible] experience.

Gas and wood fires were first tested last year; they are to be followed by fires involving cable, paint, oil and other materials.

The most important finding so far is that even heavy local fires have only a strictly limited effect on the safety of the installation.

The safety container is most unlikely to be damaged. It can be hermetically sealed, so shortage of air should definitely keep the fire under control after 10 to 15 minutes.

Keen international interest has been shown in the Karlsruhe experiments, especially in other industries where the fire risk is particularly high.

Oil rigs and production platforms are a case in point.

German nuclear power stations must be able to withstand a direct hit in a plane crash without substantial damage to either the outer concrete shell or the inner structure.

Here too, proof in practice is provided by means of complex calculations. The hot steam reactor was subjected to stresses equivalent to those of a plane crash to check the ratings.

A 20-tonne weight on a pendulum was swung from a height of up to five metres against the outer shell of the reactor at a height of 40 metres.

Measurements taken all over the installation showed the shock not to resound throughout the components. Reverberation definitely declined from the outside to the inside of the reactor.

Experiments also showed experimental findings to largely tally with earlier calculations.

Sudden changes in temperature that occur in the reactor cycle when upsets happen lead to material stress that may, if repeated, cause rifts.

Experiments with drastic changes of temperature in the pressurised reactor chamber showed the resulting tension in the container wall to be well below the tolerances specified for the materials used.

In other words, the safety margins were adequate.

Another accident tested was the blow-down, as the effect of a broken main coolant pipe under operational pressure is known.

The pipe system affected is subjected to powerful oscillation by the pressure waves this generates, leading locally to plastic deformation.

Yet despite these extremes of strain there was no follow-up damage that might jeopardise the safety of the installation.

Nuclear power station components are regularly subjected to comprehensive checks known as repeat checks to test them for rifts or corrosion damage.

The pressure container of the hot steam reactor was subjected to newly-devised ultrasonic tests capable of pinpointing rifts of only a few millimetres before they assume dangerous proportions.

Precision shot-firing and the use of explosives is being considered as a means of demolishing inner concrete walls of disused nuclear power stations.

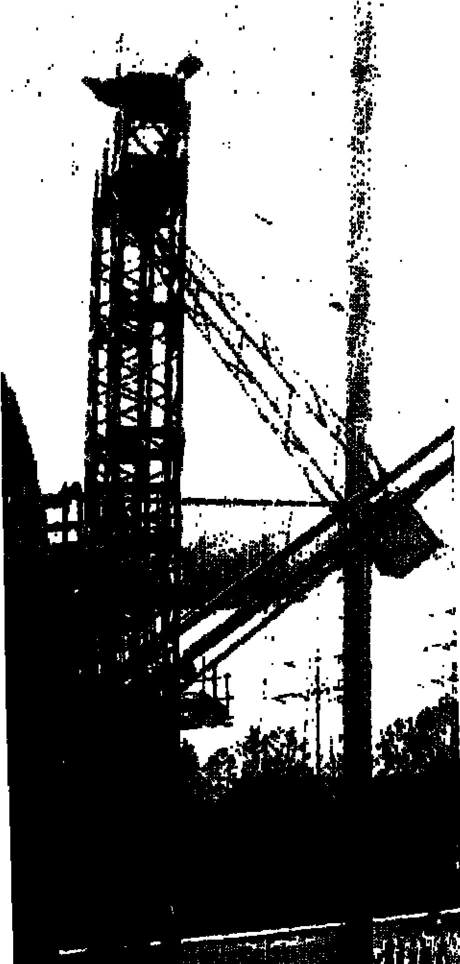
Experiments have been carried out on reinforced concrete walls at the Karlsruhe hot steam reactor to test and develop these techniques.

Given the right dosage of explosive and shots placed at the right intervals, walls could, it was shown, be demolished layer by layer.

The pressure waves, the rubble and dust could also be kept under control.

Klaus Körting

(Die Welt, Bonn, 9 January 1986)


This pendulum is capable of testing the reactor by simulating the impact of a plane crashing against the shell. (Photo: KFK)

Debate goes on over emission control methods

Disputes about static emission by the new Ibbenbüren coal-fired power station in North Rhine-Westphalia cast doubts on whether the *mandatory nitric oxide* (NOx) count agreed by *Land* Interior Ministers in April 1984 is economically feasible.

A recurring argument in favour of the 200 milligrams of nitric oxide per cubic metre of smoke limit is that the Japanese have for 10 years been using catalytic converters to depollute their smokestacks.

This argument isn't strictly true — the first catalytic converters were used to combat static emission by oil- and gas-fired power stations.

There have only been coal-fired power stations with converters in Japan since 1981, and 15 are now in operation. So experience is still limited.

Besides, two out of three coal-fired power stations in Germany use a high-temperature combustion technique that produces enormous amounts of nitric oxide.

So Japanese findings cannot be applied to German power stations without specific amendments.

[illegible] to determine how Japanese emission control techniques can be adapted for use in German fuel and operational conditions.

Yet German power utilities even plan to improve Japanese techniques for the more modern dry firing process, which makes do with lower temperatures (and in which the slack is dry, not molten).

Above all, they are keen to devise different catalytic converters to convert nitric oxides. The life span of costly Japanese converters is felt to be far too short.

After about two years they are so full of toxic substances that they no longer work and need replacing. German utilities are thinking in terms of a four-year life span.

Experiments are also to find out what effluent and dirt problems occur and how spent converters can best be disposed of.

So catalytic converters are nowhere near sufficiently developed to be used without the slightest misgivings. They are not the only way of reducing smokestack emission either.

Badenwerk, the Baden-Württemberg power corporation, has installed a pilot installation in the seventh, coal-fired section of its 550-megawatt Rheinhafen steam power station in Karlsruhe.

The new unit tests two variations on an alternative technique, the electron beam (or cathode ray) process.

Smoke is bombarded with charged particles accelerated to high speeds in a particle accelerator.

When these high-energy electrons hit water, oxygen or nitrogen molecules they produce radical molecular fragments that readily react with sulphur dioxide and nitric oxides.

In the process sulphuric or nitric acid is generated; it can be neutralised by an admixture of ammonia.

Solid, crystalline ammonium sulphate particles remain. They can be filtered out and later used as fertilisers.

In this way the SO_2 count can be cut by 90 and the NOx count cut by 80 per cent.

The electron beam pilot units have been installed in the base of the smokestacks, an alteration for which the power station doesn't need to be shut down.

Thick lead walls screen the surroundings from X-rays emitted while the particle accelerator is in operation.

One experimental system was designed and built by Karlsruhe University department of thermic current machines, the other by the aerosol and filter technology laboratory at the nuclear research establishment.

The latter was tested in 1983/84 in the research establishment's process steam power station. The university's unit was laboratory-tested.

Both systems use a particularly straightforward linear accelerator supplied by Energy Sciences International, a US manufacturer.

Between 100 and 1,000 cubic metres of smoke an hour can be passed through each system. To fully test the efficacy of the electron beam process smoke can be extracted both before and after a conventional sulphur extraction facility.

The conventional device "washes" the smoke and converts sulphur dioxide and limestone into plaster.

The aim of the Karlsruhe trials is to perfect the process and compare it with catalytic converter techniques.

Research institutes are taking a wide range of measurements as part of the project. The electron beam technique is currently felt to be less expensive to run than catalytic converters.

Japanese estimates suggest that using catalytic converters to reduce NOx emission to 200 milligrams per cubic metre of smoke will cost about 1.1 pfennigs per kilowatt-hour of electricity generated.

Badenwerk, the Karlsruhe utility, says the cost per kilowatt-hour for electron beam treatment should not exceed 0.83 pfennigs per kilowatt-hour provided the cost of electron beam generation does not exceed six deutschemarks per watt.

Assuming this is so and SO_2 emission is reduced by at least 70 per cent, the electron beam technique could prove a handy means of eliminating some degree of environmental pollution and threat to the forests.

A decision is likely to be reached in two to three years' time.

Michael Globig

(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, Bonn, 11 January 1986)

■ THE CINEMA

Where the jungle is right next door to the conservatory

Frankfurter Allgemeine

Doris Dörrie says her latest film, *Männer*, (Men) is a study of the habits and customs of an undiscovered species.

She wanted to describe this world of men knowing full well that as an outsider, she would not be able to penetrate to the centre.

Her investigation revealed that Men wore a colours corresponding with their status: any colour as long as it was a grey.

Only the other ranks usually wore colourful costumes. Successful warriors tended to prefer unassuming garb and to show off with their homes and chariots.

They kept their weapons neatly stored in leather attaché cases and "certain rituals," she discovered, were "simply not discussed."

Within their own tribe they claimed to have nothing to say to each other about the enemy they constantly stalked. But "ethnologist" Dörrie didn't lose heart.

She marched right into the jungle and behaved as though she was reading, but kept looking over the edge of the page at the "undiscovered species," jotting down notes all the time. She noted, for instance, the articles of faith of these strange beings, axioms such as: "We men, unlike women, are always liable to conscience blackmail" or "A man is what he does, whereas a woman is what she is."

Aphorisms of this kind, fragments of lost tablets of the law, posed logical problems and clamoured for interpretation and an explanation that would make them make sense.

The result is a film about about the strange customs of the world in question, an entrancing comedy entitled *Männer*.

Julius, played by Heiner Lauterbach, is a family man and a successful member of his species.

He may not have made history like his ancestral namesake Caesar, but he is in command of his company's advertising department.

He is a former athlete who now drives a sports car, a home-owner and a man whose career progresses as steadily as his hair recedes.

His surname, Armbrust, means crossbow in English and in German sounds distinctly reassuring in a shoulder-to-lean-on way.

Julius Armbrust and his wife Paula, played by Ulrike Kriener, have been married for 12 years when she suddenly suffers from an attack of, let's say, 12-year-itch.

She has inexplicably fallen in love with Stefan, played by Uwe Ochsenknecht, an unemployed commercial artist. Marital bliss and the couple's summer holiday have gone with the wind, but they separate in a civilised manner. They stay within the bounds of conventional wedlock and decide to think it over, wishing each other well as they go their separate ways. The tale is told in such an everyday manner and so realistically that appearances seem absolutely convincing. Then, suddenly, the unexpected happens. Julius, who is supposed to be attending a congress, turns into a jealous private detective tailing his rival. He soon finds out that Stefan has a spare room to let in his shared flat; he applies and moves in.



Two species being discovered in *Männer*.
(Photo: Filmverlag der Autoren)

Unbeknown to the lover, husband and lover live side by side. Julius doesn't take long to solve the riddle the stranger has posed for him.

A man is what he does. Doris Dörrie's film ridicules the cliché by exaggerating it to an absurd extent.

A lover is only interesting for as long as he differs from his predecessor, Julius reasons, so all he needs to do is make his rival resemble him exactly and he will be rid of him.

The idea is transformed into a grand, strategic design. Fate befalls the unwitting rival who has hitherto quietly done occasional artwork and earned money on the side by working in a snack bar.

Julius transforms him into an executive whose skills are marketed, skills of which Stefan himself is blissfully unaware.

His long hair is shorn, he dons shirt and suit, and from being a demonstrator he becomes a career man.

Julius subtly gets his own back on Stefan. Revenge is sweet and hilarious. The victim is transformed from a Don Juan into a boring businessman and the husband is able to regain his former family status.

It is a witty and amusing tale, particularly in minor details, but the basic idea is pessimistic, with a cynical aftertaste of a world in which reality seems to amount to no more than mere appearances.

Is the cliché "a man is what he does" *really* mistaken?

In *Männer* Frau Dörrie really seems to have rid herself of a deadweight. Her latest film shows no sign of the cap set at Hollywood that was so readily apparent in her *Im Innern des Wals* (Inside the Whale).

Yet *Männer* is a typical Dörrie film in its cinematic and screen perspectives, its strangely charged point of view.

The two flat-sharers are seen at one stage playing with toy cars. Before long the same model, a sports car, can be seen full-size outside the window of Stefan's room. His career is a hypertrophied toy.

Männer is a totally intellectual film, a soberly calculated, constructed product that works magnificently in a number of sequences.

But at times the aesthetic subtlety intended to make all traces of what has been thought up vanish proves a failure and the scaffolding of ideas comes insistently to the fore.

Minor characters appear, such as Angelika, played by Janna Marangosoff, and Lothar, played by Dietmar Bär, whose sole task is to fill in a few minutes on the screen.

Motifs are meaninglessly played for all they are worth.

So Julius has burnt his rival's fingers. But must we really see it happen three times to make sure we have taken the point? For that matter, must Julius so pointedly repaint Stefan's room?

Frau Dörrie is at her best when she allows herself to be carried away by her exercise, as in the fast and furious scene when Julius dons an ape's mask to avoid being recognised by Paula, who [illegible] ing Stefan.

In this men's world the jungle is right next door to the conservatory.

Doris Dörrie wanted to invent a male equivalent of Marilyn Monroe, but she has studied the rituals of her species far too well to succeed.

Her men have no secrets, no charisma. They are mirror images of a virtuoso fantasy that plays cat and mouse with them.

At the end of the film, by which time Julius and Stefan are in the same line of business, she uses a fitting allegory.

They are seen going up and down in an open elevator of the kind known in German as a paternoster, tearing each other's clothes off in a rage.

But war of the white-collar workers isn't declared. They fight in pin stripes but are reconciled in their underpants. Ecce homo. Oh, man!

Andreas Kilb
(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 13 January 1986)

■ PHILOSOPHY/LITERATURE

Moses Mendelssohn, influential thinker and defender of the Jewish faith

DEUTSCHES ALLGEMEINES SONNTAGSBLATT

When Moses Mendelssohn died in Berlin in 1786 Johann Erich Biester, a librarian, wrote in an obituary that Mendelssohn in his flawless conduct and zealous teaching "had revealed to us important truths. He had shown that a Jew, a non-Christian could be a good man, could be religious and stimulate among us Christan religion and virtue."

This appreciation of Mendelssohn, who was later to be called "The German Socrates" shows the extraordinary impression the man had on his contemporaries and the position Jewry occupied in his time.

Mendelssohn was born in the Dessau ghetto in 1729. He grew up poor and spoke only Hebrew and Jewish-German. In 1743 he followed his teacher Rabbi David Fränkel to Berlin.

In a letter dated 1774 he wrote: "I acquired a taste for knowledge ..., I was a tutor in the home of a rich Jew, then book-keeper and finally foreman in the same silk manufacturing factory where I am at the present ... By the way I was never at a university and have never attended lectures at a college. This is one of the greatest difficulties I have had to bear. I have been obliged to do everything with my own efforts and industry."

He taught himself Latin, Greek, English and French and had a brilliant command of style in German that was acknowledged even by those who were his philosophical opponents.

He was familiar with the most important writings from Antiquity and contemporary philosophy. He became one of the most learned men in Europe.

He did not establish his own philosophical system in his many philosophical writings, but remained true to the philosophy of the Enlightenment as expounded by Gottfried Leibniz (1646-1716) and Baron Christian Wolff (1679-1754). But this does not gainsay the significance of his philosophy in 18th century thought.

In a special manner Mendelssohn contributed to reconciling the philiophy of the Enlightenment to a broader circle. His *Phaedon*, published in 1767, is a philosophical dialogue in which he tried to prove the immortality of the soul. This work was much read and discussed, [illegible] throughout Europe.

In 1763 he was honoured by the royal Prussian Academy of Sciences for the best answer to the question how with the evidence available it was possible to prove metaphysical and mathematical truths.

Kant, "the man who bruised everything and everyone" wrote of Mendelssohn's *Morgenstunden* (literally Morning Hours), published in 1785: "This final legacy of dogmatic metaphysics may be regarded as the most perfect manifestation of the same ..."Although from childhood he was a hunchback and stuttered he was a star of the Berlin salons. His strong will, his learning and his pleasant personality had a fascinating effect on many of his contemporaries. He was regarded by them as an amusing and quick-witted conversationalist. This is all the more noteworthy since Mendelssohn was in a relatively insecure situation and subject to legislation that discriminated against Jews, a situation under which he suffered enormously.

He wrote: "It pains me that I have to beg for the right to exist, a right that all human beings have."

The insecurity he suffered as a Jew was an additional hurdle that Mendelssohn had to overcome in order to participate productively in German cultural life.

He wrote: "The everyday oppression to which we are subjected as a result of established prejudice weighs like a deadweight on the wings of the spirit."

The significance of his friendship with his contemporary Lessing that lasted until Lessing's death in 1781 has to be seen in this context.

Lessing created a monument to his friend in his play *Nathan, the Wise* that was based on Mendelssohn.

Their friendship had a model quality to it and gave hope for the beginning of a German-Jewish rapprochement. In the period that followed on, however, this largely foundered. Indeed it opened up German culture to the Jews but it did not make available Jewish culture to non-Jewish Germans.

Mendelssohn's importance for developments within the Jewish community cannot be overestimated. There was his new translation from Hebrew into German of the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Old Testament, and the Psalms, so bequeathing to many Jews a way into the German language and thus German culture.

His intention was to demolish barriers and misunderstandings through the introduction of Jews to the German language and German culture and so promote Jewish equality. A whole series of public statements concerning the emancipation of Jews under the law came into being through Mendelssohn's efforts. The most important was the document issued in 1781 by the Prussian Privy Councillor Christian Wilhelm Dohm entitled "On civic improvements for the Jews".

Mendelssohn supported this in 1785 when he wrote: "If Christian prejudice against the Jews is disputed by a Christian or even a Jewish writer, the Jews must not get mixed up in endeavours to promote a more reasonable attitude. This is bound to lead to misunderstandings and be held against those who support changes of this kind."

Mendelssohn was not able to maintain this reserve on Jewish affairs in public after the Swiss theologian Johann Casper Lavater in 1769 publicly invited him either to refute the proofs of Christianity that had been presented by Professor Bonnet, a professor of theology in Geneva, or to be converted.

The background to this attempt to convert Mendelssohn was the wide acceptance among those who accepted the Enlightenment that religion that was regarded as the most rational was identical with the Christian religion.

Lavater took the view that the supporters of a rational religion such as Mendelssohn could not be supporters



Mendelssohn . . . star of the salons. (Photo: IP)

of the out-moded Jewish belief. They were basically Christians.

Mendelssohn energetically defended the Jewish faith against this attack.

He turned the tables on those who attacked him in *Jerusalem oder über religiöse Macht und Judentum* (Jerusalem or religious power and Jewry), published in 1783. He wrote that the Jewish faith had no revealed teaching nor revealed law. It was free of dogma and as a consequence identical with rational religion.

He then made the demand that state and religion should be separated.

In matters of religious belief neither the state nor religious leaders should be able to bring pressure to bear, he believed.

He demanded that the principles he himself embodied, tolerance and humanism, should be valid within religion and society as a whole.

Thomas Rahe
(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, Hamburg, 5 January 1986)

A biting wit and a lesson from the trenches

Satirist, poet, journalist Kurt Tucholsky, still known in Berlin today affectionately as Tucho, was born in the Moabit district of Berlin on 9 January 1890. He committed suicide in 1935.

His father was a well-to-do Jewish businessman, Alex Tucholsky.

He qualified as a lawyer in 1914 for the sake of lawyer status and his reputation although he had had domestic difficulties and troubles in his education.

As a student he was already well known as a writer.

In 1929 he ended the lyric of *Der Graben* with the words, "Reach out the hand of brotherhood, the fairest gift of all, reach out over the trenchs, good people, over the trenches."

[illegible] in the memory and preparations were under way for the Second.

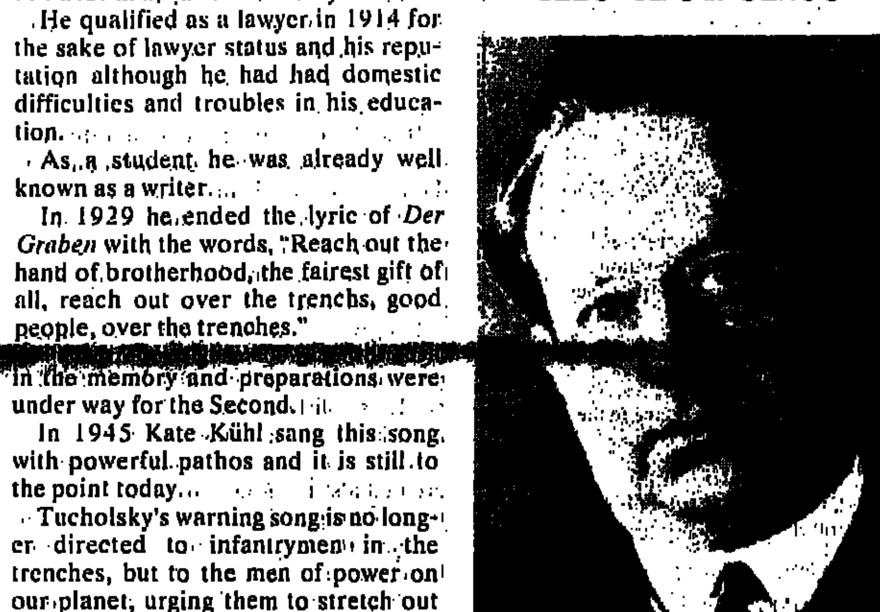
In 1945 Kate Kühl sang this song with powerful pathos and it is still to the point today...

Tucholsky's warning song is no longer directed to infantrymen in the trenches, but to the men of power on our planet, urging them to stretch out the hand of brotherhood and to make an end to the deadly arms race.

Because Tucholsky was so prolific, having at his command so many forms of writing, he wrote not only under his own name but under four other names.

These names were not pseudonyms. Everyone quickly knew who was behind the names.

As Peter Panter he cultivated his literary interests, discussing books and writing drama criticism. He was enthusiastic about the theatre and actors and given to extravagant rave reviewing.



Tucholsky . . . humour and elegance. (Photo: IP)

As Theobald Tiger he cultivated his talent for lambasting the mishaps of the times in cutting verse. This was often just rhymed satire but which acquired wit, irony and force through the verse form. As Ignaz Wrobel he was a political pamphleteer. Those in power in the state, the military and those administering justice felt the full force of his biting comments.

Kaspar Hauser saw the light of day after the war, giving to us Tucholsky's personal experiences and sentiments. He wrote many short stories and anecdots, often from the happy position of life's sidelines.

The main vehicle for Tucholsky's writing from 1913 onwards was the weekly *Schaubühne* (The stage), published in Berlin, that concentrated later on the theatre, literature and politics.

After the war Tucholsky himself moved away from cultural matters and towards social criticism and comment on current affairs.

He was here one of the most feared journalists in the Weimar Republic period, and he wrote under his own name. Despite his sharp wit, his extravagances and eccentricities he never lacked imagination, humour and elegance of expression. His writing, now distant from the events they dealt with, can still be read for pleasure and profit.

Tucholsky was not the only writer for *Weltbühne*, the later title of *Schaubühne*, but he was the main contributor.

For this reason the editor-in-chief Siegfried Jacobsohn put great store in the variety of names used. In some issues of the magazine all five Tucholsky names appear.

The entirety of the *Weltbühne* contributions represent the most ebullient

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■ EDUCATION

German studies in the US a tradition on the decline



Los Angeles is vying with New York as a German arts research and promotion centre in the United States. Developments at the University of Southern California (USC) grow more interesting and stimulating by the year.

The shift in emphasis to California from the Eastern seaboard with its traditional European ties and orientation dates back to the Third Reich.

Those were the days when palm-lined Ocean Avenue, Santa Monica, was a meeting-place for dozens of leading artistic and cultural emigrés from Germany and Austria.

They included Bert Brecht, Lion Feuchtwanger, Thomas and Heinrich Mann, Bruno Walter, Otto Klemperer, Hanns Eisler, Theodor Adorno, Max Horkheimer, Franz Werfel, Alfred Polgar, Fritz Lang, Max Reinhardt and Albert Bassermann — to name but a few.

Even before 1933 there was a large German-speaking colony in Hollywood that put up the securities and arranged for the contracts, genuine or window-dressing, needed by would-be immigrants persecuted by the Nazis.

In next to no time after the Nazi takeover in Germany Los Angeles was transformed into a focal point of German art, literature and the arts.

At a time when what was left of the free world on either side of the Atlantic anxiously closed its borders to refugees Los Angeles, derided in those days as backwoods and vulgar in outlook, welcomed German intellectuals with pride and joy.

The welcome was particularly effective at the USC, one of the largest and richest private universities in the country, where Ludwig Marcuse was a staff member of the German faculty.

He sought to salvage German arts and artists exiled by the Nazis and helped fellow-writer in any way he could. He invited them to hold lectures and transformed his faculty overnight, as it were, into a centre of free literary research.

Lion Feuchtwanger established very close ties with the university, which is now his literary executor.

When the war was over many emigrés headed back home. After some hesitation Marcuse also left the university in 1962, at a time when foreign literature studies in the United States began to nosedive.

There were many reasons for this decline: demographic reasons for instance. In the melting-pot that was America third- and fourth-generation descendants of European immigrants finally parted company with their original native language.

Another reason was what the *New York Times* called the "linguistic arrogance" of the great power attitude that sought to elevate English to the status of a universal lingua franca.

Above all, in the 1960s climate of student unrest the study of far-off, long-gone civilisations no longer seemed "relevant."

High school students quit language classes in droves, with the result that fewer college students had even a rudimentary grasp of foreign languages.

The number of academic chairs was reduced; PhD programmes were pruned. It was a vicious circle that by the early 1980s had led to only eight per cent of US universities insisting on foreign language credits as an entry qualifications.

German studies have been a particularly heavy loser. In the mid-1960s there were still 50 students at the German faculty of Columbia University, New York, and at least half a dozen PhDs a year were awarded.

Today the faculty has a mere six graduate students, and last year not a single postgraduate submitted a PhD thesis in German studies.

The number of professors at the faculty has declined from seven to three, and those that remain must for the most part make do with German language teaching for a declining band of students for whom German is a subsidiary subject.

Over the past 20 years students of German at US universities have declined in number from 216,000 to 126,000 — a much steeper decline than that of students of the other four main modern languages taught: French, Russian, Spanish and Italian.

German faculties have been wound up at 150 universities and colleges, while half the 70 universities that still award German studies degrees are in the same position as Columbia. They have no PhD students.

"If we continue to close our eyes to the facts and fail to renew the subject's attraction," says Theodore Ziolkowsky of Princeton, "there will be a grave risk of German studies declining to auxiliary status at institutes of higher learning and being limited to elementary language teaching."

Professor Ziolkowsky feels German faculty staff failed to find the time to reawaken interest in German literature and link German studies with problems of arts, science and politics.

The USC in Los Angeles was arguably the only university in the United States that didn't allow itself to be driven on to the defensive, let alone into capitulation.

It looked on its past as a rallying-point for emigrés as a commitment for the present. The dean of its German faculty, Professor Cornelius Schnauber, who hails from Dresden, has successfully upheld the tradition Ludwig Marcuse established.

For over a decade he has organised comprehensive German semesters that are now run on an even wider basis by the newly-established Max Kade Institute for Austrian-German-Swiss Studies.

The very first German semester created a stir among American intellectuals interested in promoting European culture. Its scope can be seen from the list of experts invited to attend.

They included writers Horst Bienek and Hermann Kesten, physicist Francis Zucker, composer Boris Blacher, political scientists Wilhelm Hennis and Werner Kaltefleiter and philosopher Gerhard Szczesny from Germany, architect Fred Freyler, dramatist Fritz Hochwälder, director Ernst Häussermann and actors Susi Nicoletti and Helmut Qualtinger from Austria, and writer Dieter Fringeli and film director Franz Schnyder from Switzerland.

The next German semesters were held at three- to four-year intervals and featured between 24 and 30 guests from the German-speaking countries. Guests stayed for between two and five weeks and their lectures and seminars were open to all.

Views may differ on the people chosen to represent the German-speaking world, but there are limits to possibilities, especially in view of the conservative outlook and limited financial resources of a private university.

The viewpoints of bodies in the German-speaking countries with a financial stake in the programme, such as the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the Scientific Research Association (DFG), the Institute for Foreign Relations, Stuttgart, the Goethe Institute, the Pro Helvetia Foundation and the Austrian Foreign Ministry, had also to be borne in mind.

It is very much in keeping with Ludwig Marcuse's legacy for many of the lectures, seminars, symposiums and exhibitions to deal with German and Austria art and literature in US exile.

Former emigrés such as Friedrich Hacker, Friedrich Torberg, Ernst Krenek, Fritz Lang and Rudi Fehr have played a leading role among guests at USC German semesters.

Films and film-making are strongly represented, which is understandable at a university that is only a stone's throw from Hollywood but also in acknowledgement of Hollywood's direct and indirect influence on German emigrés in Los Angeles.

Alongside the German semesters a Swiss writers in residence programme was launched at USC five years ago. Incumbents to date have been Walter Vogt, Friedrich Dürrenmatt, Urs Widmer, Hugo Loetscher, Eugen Gomringer and Adolf Muschg.

All have given lectures and held workshops. The next Swiss writer in residence will be Peter Bichsel. There were plans for a similar Austrian scheme but they were somehow snarled up in Viennese red tape.

The next German semester would be due to be held this year, but it had to be postponed, the foundation of the Max Kade Institute in May 1984 necessitating organisational changes.

Kade, a German pharmacist, earned a fortune in America from his patents and set up a foundation in New York to promote German arts that sponsored the USC institute.

The institute operates independently of the German faculty and is run by a board consisting of representatives of the Schönberg Institute and the faculties of German, history, international affairs and art.

Professor Schnauber, the hard-working dean of the German faculty, was appointed board chairman. The institute supervises the German semesters and Swiss writers in residence programmes.

It also aims to archive, catalogue and research documents on German-language emigration to America and to sponsor an oral history programme dealing with emigrés and their descendants.

The institute will also study relations between the United States, especially Southern California, and the German-speaking countries, with special attention to analysis of the influence exerted by emigrés on artistic, scientific and political trends in America.

Last but not least, expansion and coordination of research programmes and student exchanges between the USC and the Federal Republic of Germany,

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■ HABITS

Glue sniffing increasing, conference is told



A 15-year-old boy in the intensive care unit of a Hamburg hospital who almost died after sniffing glue was asked whether he had now had enough and was prepared to give it up.

He told the doctor he wasn't sure, but would probably do it again:

"Somehow or other I like it, and sooner or later I'm going to sniff so much that it finishes me off."

This comment shows what a hard time narcotics consultants and welfare workers have in dealing with addiction both among hard drug addicts, who are mostly adults, and with kids who simply sniff glue.

The boy was quoted at a municipal youth department conference in Hamburg on how to help sniffers. Education counsellors, teachers, social workers and police officers spent two days discussing the subject.

It is an addiction that has been known to exist for years and regularly led to headlines such as "Child Choked to Death in Plastic Bag" but clearly has yet to be statistically and scientifically covered.

Statistics on glue sniffing, officially known as solvent abuse, are virtually non-existent. Dr Rainer Thomasius, who has dealt with the subject for years, told the conference detailed figures on the extent of addiction were not available.

All that was known was that it occurred in all Western industrialised countries and in a number of East Bloc countries too.

The reason for this non-availability of statistics is that most child and juvenile sniffers go unnoticed. They only come to light as a result of unusual behaviour such as accosting people on the street, being caught stealing or suddenly losing consciousness.

Some figures were nonetheless quoted, mainly from the United States and West Berlin, where glue sniffing presents the authorities with particularly acute problems.

In the United States an estimated seven million children and juveniles sniff now and then. In Berlin there are an estimated 2,000 chronic addicts.

Berlin sniffers are said to use between 125 and 1,000 grams of glue, solvent or other substance a day.

They are aged seven to 17, and they have been sniffing for between three months and 10 years.

Between 1972 and 1981 fifty-two deaths due to sniffing were registered by the *Bundeskriminalamt*, or Federal CID, in Wiesbaden.

The Hamburg conference was told that although more recent figures are not available, addiction is definitely on the increase.

Children and young people choke to death with their heads in plastic bags because the fumes they inhale make them lose consciousness.

Children suffer cardiac arrest or die as a result of their brains slowly shrinking.

A wide range of substances is used by sniffers. They are substances found in every home and can be bought inexpensively in virtually any shop.

They include glues, thinner, paint, nail varnish and stain remover, deodorant and even petrol.

They all contain substances that have a hallucinatory effect, such as alcohol, esters, aromatic hydrocarbons and nitrites.

A relative newcomer is spraycan gas, which reduces the oxygen count in air breathed and has an effect similar to that of altitude sickness in the mountains.

Dr Thomasius distinguished between various stages of sniffing. First comes a state of excitement, then optic and acoustic changes in the perceived environment, i.e. hallucinations.

At this stage sniffers may see a garden hose as a wriggling snake and a murky stream as a gleaming golden river or hear a chorus of trumpets rather than the sound of car horns blaring.

Most sniffers develop "under the influence" a sense of euphoria and superiority out of all relation to their true situation.

They may feel they are suspended in mid-air and other people are only a few inches tall.

Some sniffers, he said, saw themselves as on a par with comic strip heroes such as Superman and accordingly took leave of the real world and the difficulties it presented.

Sniffing glue isn't the minor offence many young people feel it is. Kids in particular have little or no idea of the health hazard posed by regular or excessive sniffing. The chemicals inhaled have a detrimental effect on the central nervous system and destroy inner organs such as the kidneys, liver and heart.

The destruction of brain cells leads to what he called a process of progressive dementia and can cause paralysis of the legs and arms.

Typical symptoms that ought to be heeded by parents and teachers are disturbance of equilibrium, slow speech, eye fluttering, numbness and apathy to the point of unconsciousness, euphoria and, in advanced states, the shakes and chronic inflammation of the mouth and nose.

Nearly all sniffers are lower-class, the Hamburg gathering revealed. They almost always come from problem families and lack material and, above all, emotional support.

Many youngsters later switch from sniffing glue to taking hard drugs.

Charlotte Koettgen, head of the Hamburg labour and welfare department's youth psychology and psychiatry service, says sniffers are "children without a lobby." Their parents often have problems of their own to face and cannot as a rule be expected to be much help.

Frau Koettgen feels the situation might improve if young people were briefed at an early age on the consequences of sniffing.

Educationalists could take remedial action at an earlier stage. Local authority services could lend a hand. So, perhaps, could parents.

An attractive range of leisure activities might also help young people to forget their troubles and overcome their sense of loneliness.

Yet in the final analysis, she said, there could be virtually no hope of effective action against trends such as sniffing.

Thomas Vinsor Wolgast
(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 9 January 1986)

Warning on use of vitamins

Too much of a good thing — in this case vitamins — can be bad for you, says the Federal Health Office, Berlin.

Vitamins, far from being harmless, can harm health if taken in an overdose.

A balanced diet is usually enough, making additional intake of vitamin pills and preparations superfluous.

Vitamin A, which dissolves fat in body tissue and is good for the eyesight, can cause poisoning if taken in overdose.

Hair loss, eczema, jaundice, sweating, tiredness, nausea and menstrual upsets are among the unpleasant consequences that can occur.

The effect of vitamin B in counteracting stress has yet to be proved. Health Office scientists say an overdose of vitamin B1 can cause sweating, itch and asthma.

A vitamin B6 overdose may upset sensations felt by the skin, while too much vitamin B12 can cause acne.

Vitamin B deficiency only occurs when the balance of intestinal bacteria is upset or after abdominal surgery.

Vitamin C, we are constantly told, is particularly important in winter. But very little is needed; 100 milligrams a day is ample.

Vitamin C intake up to two grams per day can make you ill, causing headaches, tiredness and insomnia.

Extra intake of vitamin E is unnecessary because it is contained in margarine or muesli.

Iron tablets can also cause trouble, such as constipation and gastritis, if the taker isn't suffering from iron deficiency.

dpa
(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 8 January 1986)

Rise in attempted suicides: some are even successful

For every boy or male under 20 in the Federal Republic of Germany who commits suicide, about 12 fail in the attempt. For girls under 20 there are roughly 40 attempted suicides for every success.

Suicide attempts have increased substantially among both sexes among 15- to 19-year-olds: by 340 per cent among boys and 140 per cent among girls, says the Central Mental Health Institute, Mannheim.

In 1984 thirty-nine 10- to 14-year-olds and 356 15- to 19-year-olds committed suicide.

Among 10- to 14-year-olds suicide doubled from 4.2 to 8.5 per cent of fatalities over the periods 1960-69 and 1974-83 respectively.

Among 15- to 19-year-olds suicide accounted for 12 per cent of fatalities between 1974 and 1983, so nearly one death in eight was a suicide. This was a 13.5-per-cent increase over the period 1951-60.

The main reasons for suicide or suicide bids are said to be family problems and unhappy love affairs. Problems at school are seldom involved.

(Die Welt, Bonn, 14 January 1986)